

THE ATHENÆUM.

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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER.

In each of the two great branches of human character, the *moral* and the *intellectual*, may be discerned the influence both of original conformation, and of secondary or adventitious circumstances; and it is upon just and precise views of the respective operation of these two sets of causes, that all conclusions, practical and speculative, concerning character are to be founded. The records of biography present numerous facts whereon to build such conclusions; and facts alone can be relied upon in an enquiry which, in reality, is a department of natural history.

To begin with moral character—The position that *temper* or *disposition* is a radical quality of mind, never entirely to be changed, but only modified in its agency by superinduced habits, or by principles of conduct, which, while they serve to give it a direction as far as their influence extends, leave it the supreme arbiter of life and manners in other points—will probably receive illustration and proof from the following examples.

Cato the Younger was characterized almost from infancy by a firm unyielding temper, joined with a slow but solid understanding, which rendered indelible, impressions once formed, and made him immutable in his purposes. This disposition, in an untutored and ill-governed mind, might have been mere vicious stubbornness and obstinacy, but the maxims of Roman patriotism and Grecian philosophy elevated it to a moral heroism of which history affords few parallels. It is related, that Popedius Silo, one of the deputies sent to the Italian states to demand their participation in the rights of Roman citizenship, having been entertained as a guest in the house of Livius Drusus, uncle and guardian to Cato and his brother Cæpio, once, in a playful manner, requested the two boys to intercede with their relation in his behalf.

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half. Cæpio readily promised compliance; but Cato, who had doubtless been nourished in all the lofty sentiments of a Roman, looked in silence at Popedius with an expression of displeasure. Unable by soft words to overcome his surliness, Popedius carried him to the window, and threatening to throw him out, held him as if ready to let him drop; but the boy bore it without the least indication of fear, or a single conciliatory expression. Popedius had sagacity enough to discern in this scene the future bulwark of his country's rights. At the age of fourteen, being taken to pay his respects to the dictator Sylla, with whom his family was connected, and seeing a number of heads of noble victims carried out from an inner apartment, he asked of his Greek preceptor, Why such a man was suffered to live? "Because (he replied) Sylla is still more feared than hated." "Give me, then, a sword (said young Cato) that I may free my country from tyranny;" and this he uttered with so stern and determined an air, that his tutor was obliged to watch him closely lest he should put his purpose in execution. Here were manifestly the dawns of that great character which, matured and principled by the stoic philosophy, produced the invincible assertor of Roman liberty, and the most upright of patriots. In the earlier ages of the republic it might also have been marked with unfeeling severity; but letters had softened Cato into humanity, and no man displayed more substantial kindness upon adequate occasions. His unsubmitting spirit, indeed, sometimes led him into useless and imprudent opposition; and his strict adherence to the rule of right embarrassed his friends as much as his enemies; but it was not his fault that the times were unfit for him.

John Lilburne, the English republican, was not inferior to Cato in firmness of resolution and unyielding intrepidity. Perhaps there was more of the restless and contentious mixed in his disposition; yet the differences between the two characters may be chiefly ascribed to the difference of their education and situation in life. John was an apprentice in London when he first exhibited his impatience of tyranny by a complaint before the chamberlain against his master for ill usage. He then began to study the divinity of the time, which was all turned to controversial disputation, and he became a zealous puritan, with all the austerity of the sect. The Book of Martyrs inspired him with an enthusiastic fervour for acting and suffering in what he deemed the righteous cause. He was soon called upon to suffer, and no one could go through his trials with a more unsubdued spirit. His stedfast appeals to the laws of his country and the privileges of Englishmen, procured him great popularity with the inferior classes, and the title of *Freeborn John*. Lilburne passed a life of contest against power in every hand in which it was placed, of dispute with all his superiors in command, and of virulent controversy on civil and religious topics. He was a brave soldier, but never found an authority under which he could continue to act. He appears to have been fond of contention for its own sake; yet without doubt there was much of principle in his constant opposition to injustice and oppression, and the event often proved him

him to be in the right. That a kind of ridicule is attached to his memory, is perhaps chiefly owing to the contemptible nature of many of the disputes in which he was engaged, and the vulgarity of his style and manners.

The philanthropist *John Howard* (no man ever better deserved that title) was equal to either of the former in firmness of mind, but it was unattended with the litigious propensity of the last, and was accompanied with a singular restlessness that perpetually urged him to some active pursuit. With only an ordinary share of moral principle, this might have rendered him merely a busy man, occupied in gratifying a mutable curiosity with persevering industry; but christianity was to him what stoicism was to Cato; "*Non sibi sed toti genitum se credere mundo*"—a system of practical benevolence, impelling him to sacrifice his repose and hazard his life in promoting the welfare of his fellow-creatures. His determined spirit, and his love of action, were modified and directed by this great principle. It rendered him in his peregrinations as superior to the calls of appetite, as Cato was in the deserts of Africa; and enabled him to face the dangers of disease with as much courage as a soldier could display on the day of battle. It overcame even curiosity and the love of knowledge, and fixed his attention to the one great business of benevolence which he had undertaken.

He keeps his object ever full in sight,
And that assurance holds him firm and right.

Dryden.

In the preceding instances, native resolution was actuated by motives which outweighed the selfish principle, and inspired a course of conduct of which public good was the object. In the class of men who have popularly obtained the denomination of *great* we shall always meet with the fundamental quality above-mentioned, but too frequently under a very different direction. An example or two of this kind may usefully be adduced by way of comparison.

Julius Cæsar, brought up as a young man of rank in a most dissolute metropolis, was for a time whirled in the vortex of pleasure, and confined his exertions to exploits of gallantry and the attainment of splendid accomplishments. Yet the firmness with which he resisted the terrible Sylla, who imperiously urged him to divorce his wife, the daughter of Cinna; and the commanding intrepidity he displayed when a captive among pirates; gave manifest tokens of a character born for distinction in any walk of life which he should finally pursue. The prospects of ambition at length opened on his mind; and meeting with no principle to circumscribe them within the limits of legitimate power, he entered upon that career, which led him by undeviating steps to the subversion of the liberties of his country. The union of indefatigable activity and prompt decision with daring enterprize gave him a superiority over all his competitors, and ensured success to his plans. There appears to have been in his composition either a native mildness, or an acquired spirit of moderation, which rendered

rendred him one of the most clement of conquerors in a civil war; but the baneful effects of uncontrouled power on the temper were beginning to show themselves before he was made a sacrifice to patriotic vengeance.

Intrepidity and resolution have seldom been more conspicuous than in the character of *Cromwell*. This extraordinary person seems in his youth to have been noted for a turbulent ungovernable disposition, which threw him into a licentious course of life. From this he was reclaimed by an early marriage and admission into respectable society; and he soon began to attach himself to that party in which an appearance, at least, of sanctity was requisite to gain reputation. Nor can it be doubted that his mind, naturally prone to enthusiasm, imbibed a portion of real religious fervour. But his projects for advancement rendered it necessary for him to affect more than he felt; and in a mixture which, remarkable as it may seem, is not uncommon, he combined hypocrisy and cunning with fanaticism. Had not, however, the civil contests of the time terminated in an appeal to the sword, he might have remained only distinguished in the group as a busy oppositionist and a long-winded canter, greatly inferior in talents and accomplishments to the parliamentary leaders. But the vigour and abilities he displayed in the field gained him the confidence of his party; and being shackled by no principle, he made use of his acquired credit to supplant his competitors, and raise himself to sovereign power. Had this man been originally bred to arms under a settled government, it is highly probable that he would have attained an elevated rank, in which his turbulent spirit might possibly have incited him to embroil affairs for the purpose of further advancement; but the habitual dissimulation and hypocrisy which the peculiar circumstances of the time rendered necessary to his actual progress, might never have formed an essential part of his character.

Inflexibility was the base of the extraordinary character of *Charles XII.* of Sweden. In his youth he was stubborn and indocile; and having the disadvantage of being born heir to a monarchy, he might have been totally uneducated, had not means been found of working upon that spirit of emulation which was one of his active principles. He was induced to learn Latin by being told that the kings of Denmark and Poland were proficient in that language. He read *Quintus Curtius*, and from that time the ardour for martial glory seems to have taken possession of his breast. Alexander became his hero and the model for his imitation; but without the splendid qualities of that conqueror, he possessed what he wanted—resolution to resist the allurements of pleasure. When called forth to action by the unjust aggression of his neighbours, he for ever renounced the society of the fair sex and the use of wine, and steeled himself to all the toils and hardships of a military life. His temper, naturally insensible, was rendered more unfeeling by the principles of arbitrary power, which caused the lives and fortunes of his subjects to appear as nothing in his sight, whilst pursuing his romantic schemes of conquest. In all his subsequent

subsequent adventures, his successes and failures, the same inflexibility, or obstinacy as it might justly be termed, characterised him. He appeared a hero at Narva and a madman at Bender; but he was radically the same in both—inaccessible to fear, to pity, to all the common feelings of human nature. He would excellently have filled the part of Talus the Iron Man in Spenser; but to the lasting injury of his country, and the disturbance of Europe, fortune had made him the directing head as well as the executing arm. He was as ready to fight for a punctilio as for a kingdom, and nothing but a bullet could stop his career.

But enough of this class of characters. If these discussions prove agreeable to the readers of the Athenæum, I shall hereafter resume them.

N. N.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FEROE ISLANDS.

(Continued.)

Swans are seen on these islands in flocks early in the spring and late in the autumn. They remain some time in the bays and fresh water ponds, where some of them are shot every year. It is believed that they stop here to rest in their journey to and from Iceland; for it has been remarked, that in the spring they are calm and composed as long as the north and west winds blow, but take flight and pursue their course northwards as soon as the wind veers to the east or south.

Wild geese make their appearance in the middle of April, and depart at Michaelmas. These fowls were very abundant here formerly; but in consequence of the number killed by the natives, they have become scarce. Domestic geese are kept by the peasants, but they are not numerous.

There are various kinds of ducks in Ferøe, the most remarkable of which is the eider duck, *anas mollissima*. The latter is found here in considerable number, but might be very abundant if the royal mandate for preserving them were strictly observed. A clergyman, named Diurhaus, was at considerable expence to form an island in a small inland lake named Toftevatn, for the purpose of affording shelter to the eider ducks; and in some years he had the satisfaction to have more than a hundred pairs, which built their nests there, and produced him a considerable revenue; but it is much to be regretted that this colony was not attended with the wished-for success.*

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* The eider duck is found in great abundance at Nova Zembla and along the coasts of the frozen ocean. In the neighbourhood of Kola they make their nests among the juniper bushes growing on the shore, and also among the grass. They

It would be tedious to enumerate and describe all the fowls which frequent the rocks on the sea-coast of Feroe; we shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a short account of some of the most remarkable.

The penguin, *alca impennis*, is as large as a goose, but its wings are so uncommonly small in proportion to its body that it cannot fly, but uses them merely for swimming with under the water, and for climbing up the low rocks on the sea-coast. This bird is now beginning to be scarce in these islands.

The shear-water, *procellaria puffinus*, comes hither about the 12th of March, and departs in the month of September. It builds its nest on the sides of the hills, where it scrapes a hole with its claws in the ground between the stones, from eighteen inches to nearly two feet in depth, which proceeds inwards with a great many turnings and windings, like that of the mole. It produces but one young one, which it feeds no oftener than once a day, and yet it has an inch of fat on the breast; nay, it sometimes consists of scarcely any thing else but fat. The young are called by the natives *luira*, and about the eighth of September they search for them in the places where the old ones construct their nests, and either drag them out with a fish-hook, fastened to a crooked stick, or dig down to the nest; but in the latter case it is necessary that the hole should be closed up so exactly as to prevent the smallest drop of rain from entering it, otherwise the bird will desert it till the following year. The puffin is so timorous, that if a fowling-piece be fired at a flock of them at sea, they all fall upon their backs into the water, where they lie as if they were dead; but when a boat approaches, and the people in it attempt to seize any one of them, they all fly away one after the other. Young puffins were caught here formerly in much greater abundance than at present, as their number has been much lessened by the destructive rats.

The petrel, *procellaria pelagica*, called in Feroe *drunquiti*, is a small neat marine bird, about the size of a swallow. It is not uncommon in Feroe, but it is never seen in the day from the time that it lays its eggs till its young are full grown. It builds its nest on the sides of the hills, among heaps of stones which have fallen down from the precipices above, and which in the course of time have become mixed

They line them with the down which they pluck from their breasts, and in such quantity as may be sufficient to cover their eggs, amounting to five or six. It is of a brown colour and exceedingly light. The nests are visited by the inhabitants, who carry away the eggs, but particularly the down, which is an article of great value. As the eider duck, however, when she finds her nest robbed of the feathers, never returns to it again, it is to be apprehended that this article will become exceedingly scarce, because in this manner a whole brood is destroyed. Half a pound of down is commonly obtained from three nests. But in the nests it is mixed with a great deal of grass and other foreign matters, and therefore forty pounds of such feathers produce no more than fifteen that are perfectly clean. At Hamburgh a pound of clean down costs sometimes three dollars,

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mixed with earth, in which the bird digs its hole. Like the bat, it flies out in the evening, at which time the people employed in the cod-fishery see it skimming over the water, and sometimes when it is so dark that no part of it can be distinguished but the white spot on its rump, from which it takes its name, for *drunquiti* signifies white rump. It is not used as food, for its flesh has a more disagreeable smell than that of the raven. When this bird is caught and carried home, it becomes so tame that it will suffer itself without the least fear to be touched and handled. Its nest is like that of a rat.

The gannet or Solan goose, *pelicanus bassarus*, known to mariners under the name of John of Ghant, frequents none of the Feroe islands but the rocks in the neighbourhood of Myggenæs. It repairs thither about the 25th of January, which is one of the festivals in that island, and departs at the end of autumn. In the middle of April it lays two eggs, which are hatched in the course of a month, but the young ones do not take flight till September. The old ones are white, and as large as a goose; but the young are grey, and do not acquire their proper colour till the third year. They are exceedingly fat but oily. The old ones are caught in the middle of April, when they have built their nests, but before they have laid their eggs. The peasants steal upon them in the night time, or when it is dark, in the places where they sit and sleep, and seize them by gripping them in a peculiar manner, which prevents them from emitting any cry; for if they were suffered to make a noise, all the rest would awaken and betake themselves to flight. The young are knocked down at sea in autumn with a small stick called *kadix*, by people stationed in a boat, and who pick up those that fall down. Those who are successful catch sometimes in one spring two hundred old ones and the same number of young. It is astonishing to see the rapidity with which these birds can dart down from the sky to catch herrings or small cod in the sea: on these occasions they dive under water, leaving a large quantity of foam in the place where they entered it. They have such a wide gullet, that they can swallow a pretty large cod entire.

The red-throated diver, *colymbus septentrionalis*, comes to Feroe in the middle of March, and leaves it at Michaelmas. Though a sea fowl, it lays two eggs, near the small inland lakes, and at such a distance from them that it can jump into the water at one hop, for it cannot walk on land, as its feet stand too far back. Its flesh is well tasted, and is fattest at the time it lays its eggs. At that period the natives, when they go to the lakes which they frequent, and see them flying, can frighten them so much with a loud shout that they fall down; and if they drop in the grass, they may be easily caught with the hands, as they can neither walk nor take wing again. By the cry of this bird the inhabitants can foretell whether it will be dry or wet weather.

The imber, or ember goose, *colymbus immer*, is one of the most beautiful birds in Feroe. It is as large as a common goose, and lives constantly on the dry lapd; and although it has been often seen with
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grown-up young, no person has ever yet found its nest. As it has a large hole under each wing, many have imagined that it there hatches its eggs. The change in regard to the beautiful ring around the neck observed in some of these birds is in all probability a consequence of their different ages.

Cataracta skua comes to these islands in the middle of April, and leaves them about Michaelmas. It builds its nest either in the sides of the high hills, or in the flat places between the summits of them. Those who approach its nest must be very cautious, for it will strike them on the head with great violence. Though a sea-fowl, with web feet, it has crooked claws, which indicate its true character. It deserves to be called the sea-eagle, for it is a real bird of prey, an enemy to most other birds, and even to small lambs.

The common heron, *ardea cinerea*, is seen now and then during the summer near the ponds and rivulets which contain trout: it is seen sometimes also in winter, but more rarely. Some of the natives imagine that this bird has only one large gut, white as silver, which proceeds through its whole body. It is even related, that as soon as it catches and swallows a fish, it places its rump against a hillock or stone, to prevent the fish from getting out again, and that it stands in that position till the fish has been digested. They even believe that those who carry a heron's foot in their pocket will be fortunate in their fishing. As far as is known, this bird does not produce young in Feroe.

The sea-pie, *hamatopus ostrilegus*, feeds chiefly on shell-fish; and hence, perhaps, it has acquired the name of *ostrilegus*. The kinds it chiefly uses are the *lepas balanoides*, which is found every where along the coast like moss on the stones, and a large muscle, *mytilus modeolus*, which after storms is cast on shore, adhering to large pieces of sea-weed. It sometimes happens that this bird, when it sees this large muscle lying in the sun with its shell open, darts its bill into the aperture to seize its prey; but on the least touch the animal closes its shell, and in this manner holds the bird fast till it is caught either by the natives or some bird of prey. Most of the peasants, especially if they have tame sheep, are glad to see this bird in their pasture grounds, as with its long bill it drives away the destructive raven; but it is hated by those whose sheep are wild, because it gives notice to the sheep by its cry whenever a man comes in sight, and by these means renders the sheep wilder. Though it is seldom seen in the water, and though its toes are almost entirely separated, it can both swim and dive. It comes to Feroe about the middle of March, and leaves it at Michaelmas. Its piping noise in the afternoon, and especially at a distance, is not disagreeable: its eggs are well tasted, and the bird itself is accounted by epicures delicious food.

To the catalogue of birds common to these islands we may add, the wild dove *columba ænus*, the red-wing *turdus iliacus*, the starling *sturnus vulgaris*, the water-ouzel *sturnus cinclus*, the field-lark *alauda campestris*, the snow bird *emberiza nivalis*, the red-headed linnet *fringilla*

fringilla linaria, the white wag-tail *motacilla alba*, the wren *motacilla troglodytes*, and the martin *hirundo urbica*.

In Feroe there are no frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, or serpents, and no amphibious animal of any kind; a circumstance which is certainly worthy of remark.

The sea around Feroe abounds with fish of various kinds, which afford a great source of subsistence to the inhabitants. Of these we shall notice the following.

The skate, *raia vulgaris maxima*, is caught sometimes among the torsk; but as it is eaten by few of the natives, though it can be dried and preserved through the winter, they seldom carry home more of it than the liver, from which they extract train oil. Some use its skin also for making shoes. Its eggs (*pulvinar marinum*) are often found on the shore; they are called by the inhabitants *quila-nuira-pungur*, because they imagine that a kind of nut or bean, which is sometimes cast on shore, is produced in the same bag. This bag, after much search, was found by Olayius in one of these fish;* but it is very remarkable, that in this bag some of the before-mentioned beans† are often found. The skate is considered by the islanders as a very voracious fish; and therefore they say of a man who eats every kind of food, however coarse, *alt éat munni rekur luikasum skota*, that is, "he eats every thing that comes in his way, like the skate."

The torsk, *gadus morhua*, was caught here formerly in great abundance; but this branch of fishery has of late years considerably decreased. It is much to be regretted that the natives in general are not acquainted with the method of salting these fish, and that the introduction of salted torsk into commerce is attended with so many difficulties, that those who might be inclined to pursue this profitable branch of trade are deterred from engaging in it. These islanders, also, do not know the manner of preparing isinglass from the air-bladders of the torsk.

The red torsk, *gadus barbatus*, has its skin entirely red, which in all probability arises from the red sea-weed, among which this fish constantly resides, close under the land, and on which it perhaps sometimes feeds. It is exceedingly well tasted.

The *gadus virens* comes hither some years in great abundance, and frequents the bays and creeks, where it furnishes a rich supply of provisions to the inhabitants. They fish for it in the evening and during clear nights.

The —, *gadus brosmas*, is caught sometimes on the torsk hooks. When the sea is rough and the wind blows towards the land, these fish are often cast on shore by hundreds at a time. When drawn up suddenly from deep water, its stomach becomes inverted and forced

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* See his *Reisebeskr.* p. 998. tab. I.

† These beans or nuts, which are round and somewhat flat, are, without doubt, the fruit of the *mimosa scandens*, which grows in America. The bag is certainly an animal, and not a vegetable substance, as is fully proved by its smell when it is burnt.

up into its mouth; if the liver follows it, the fishermen tie a thread round it as far down the throat as they can reach, and then cut it off. The oil expressed from it is said to be good for burns.

The holibut, *pleuronectes hippoglossus*, is very abundant in some years. The largest are about six feet in length, and sufficient to form a dinner for thirty or forty people.

Soles, *pleuronectes solea*, are caught in some places, but they are not common. Mackrel, also, are caught sometimes, but they are exceedingly scarce.

Salmon trout are found in the streams and rivulets: the Alpine salmon is found also in Osteroe, and supplies the inhabitants with an excellent article of food.

Herrings exceedingly fat were caught for a few years near some of these islands, but this branch of fishery has now entirely failed.

(To be continued.)

TRUTH AND FICTION IN MANNERS COMPARED.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN the curious and entertaining "Chronicle of the Cid," lately presented to the public by Mr. Southey, nothing, probably, will more surprize the reader, than the very different account of the behaviour of Ximena, the daughter of Gomez, after her father was killed by Rodrigo (the Cid) given in this narrative, from the representation of the same in Corneille's famous tragedy of "the Cid." In the latter, Chimene (or Ximena) though deeply in love with Rodrigo, immediately on the news of her father's death, flies to the king, and beseeches him to revenge the deed; and after a long contest between love, honour, and filial duty, which forms the interest of the piece, she is with difficulty prevailed upon, by the interposition of the king himself, to give hopes of bestowing her hand on her heroic lover.

In the *true history* Ximena goes to the king, falls on her knees, and after telling him who she is, and that Rodrigo has slain her father, proceeds with great simplicity to say, "Sir, I come to crave of you a boon, that you will give me Rodrigo of Bivar to be my husband, with whom I shall hold myself well married and greatly honoured; for certain I am that his possessions will one day be greater than those of any man in your dominions. Certes, Sir, it behoves you to do this, because it is for God's service, and because I may pardon Rodrigo with a good will." The king consents; and Rodrigo (who appears never to have seen the lady) tells his majesty that "he will do his bidding in this and in all other things he might command." He then marries Ximena, who proves a dutiful and loving wife.

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Here, to be sure, is a fine tragedy sadly marred; but, in return, there is a picture of real manners which some readers may think a good compensation. For my own part I confess I have been highly amused with this contrast between fact and fiction; and it has led me to make some reflexions on the proper limits of the latter in adopting a story relative to known times and characters, and making it the subject of a work of invention. With the result of these I shall, with your leave, occupy one or two of your pages.

There is always either entertainment or instruction in genuine representations of life and manners. However coarse, vulgar, or unanimated, they are a part of human nature, and the time spent in studying that is never wholly lost. Many works of different periods of antiquity derive from this circumstance a value which they could not claim as mere literary compositions. I will not offend your classical readers by citing the works of Homer as an example; yet I think it may be affirmed that the *Odyssey*, at least, owes its interest almost solely to its pictures of a remote and simple age. The chronicles, annals, and legends of rude and barbarous times, deserve attention on the same account; for however inaccurate and exaggerating in their relation of events, they cannot but afford faithful views of contemporary manners and customs.

The writer of a refined age, who chooses to build upon the foundation of an ancient story a creation of his own fancy, is naturally inclined to avail himself of the advantages which the progress of civilization has given him, to decorate his work with the morals, sentiments, and other colouring belonging to a more advanced state of society; for without some such accommodation, he will both fall short of his own ideas of excellence, and will be liable to disgust those whom he wishes to please. But in adopting this practice, which to a certain degree is right and necessary, he is apt to proceed too far; and under the names of personages, real or fictitious, placed in a remote period and among uncivilized people, to present portraitures and images of life totally dissimilar from any thing that did exist or could have existed under such circumstances. This fault runs through the greater part of tragedies and epic poems, and is probably the true cause why they prove so little satisfactory to an exercised judgment. They give us, indeed, fine sentiments in elevated diction, interesting characters and striking situations; but they violate congruity and probability; and if we think at all, we are continually reminded that such actions and sentiments could not have been the product of the times and places to which they are referred. Thus, when the ferocious Achilles is made by Racine a tender respectful lover; when the Tartar Tamerlane is by Rowe exhibited as the model of a beneficent enlightened prince; when manly Romans are by Metastasio converted into humble submissive slaves to the fair sex; and when Highland freebooters are invested by Macpherson with the refined and generous sentiments of chivalrous romance; the incongruity of the representation destroys all the detailed beauty of the draught. Fiction, indeed, is commonly

commonly said to be the soul of poetry; but poetry is also one of the imitative arts; and when it attempts an imitation of human life and manners which is manifestly false, all the pleasure of the fiction is lost in disgust with the falsification.

In some of these violations of truth the fault consists chiefly in anticipating and misplacing what might have passed for reality when properly localized. Thus, the sentiments of Corneille's *Cid*, though inapplicable to the period in which that warrior lived, would be very little exaggerated if referred to the age when love and honour in Spain had attained a romantic refinement. Rowe's *Tamerlane* is said to have been intended as a type of king William. I do not enquire into the exactness of the resemblance; but the pure and elevated principles by which the Tartar is represented as being actuated, are at least conceivable in a modern and christian sovereign. But there are other deviations from nature, which consist in assuming greater perfection in characters than the human condition in any state of society admits of; and also in allying with base and criminal actions, such virtues of the heart as are absolutely incompatible with them. Of these incongruities it would be easy to give particular examples; but they run through the whole of Metastasio's operatical tragedies, and render them languid and insipid.

That reality in manners may with the happiest effect be united with fiction in persons and incidents, has been recently shown in the justly popular poems of "the Lay of the Last Minstrel," and "Marmion." In both of these compositions not only what is termed the costume of the times is accurately observed, but the strain of morals and sentiment is judiciously kept down to the level of that state of society which prevailed at the assigned periods. William of Deloraine is a true border hero, intrepid, active and enterprizing, but ignorant, lawless, and predatory, and as ready to confront the dangers of "Hairi-bee" in driving off a herd of English cattle, as to encounter the hazards of the field in the defence of his clan. Marmion, with undaunted courage and patriotic ardour, has also the interested and selfish feelings which are natural in a military courtier; and old Angus, with all the pride of nobility, does not scruple in his passion to violate the laws of honour and hospitality in attempting to revenge an affront given by his guest. Nine poets out of ten would certainly have suffered Marmion to pass the portcullis before he was treated as an enemy; but Mr. Scott had not forgotten that his purpose was to paint manners rather than to inculcate principles of morality, and that "Bell-the-cat" was not a man likely to stand upon ceremony.

In fact, it is the perpetual pursuit of moral refinement which has chiefly misled modern writers in their fictions of human life and manners. It will not be disputed that moral improvement is the worthiest of all objects that a writer can have in view, but there is no necessity for making it the only one, or for giving it the lead in every species of composition. Amusement and information are purposes that may well stand apart from it; and it is better that they should be pursued

pursued separately, than that incongruous mixtures should be attempted, to the detriment of each. This moralizing humour is so much the taste of the age, that we have seen even the Arabian Nights moralized. It is, in short, the cant of the times; and cant is not more adverse to truth than it is derogatory from genius.

Yours, &c.

CRITO.

OSNABURG.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

AS the former observations on Kiel have met with a liberal welcome from you, I shall proceed to lay before your readers some account of the city and quondam bishoprick of Osnaburg, and am happy in being able to add to my own fugitive memoranda much valuable information, communicated by a literary resident.

Osnaburg, or, more properly speaking, Osnabrück, situated on the Hase, is one of the finest cities in Westphalia, and yields in precedence to Dusseldorf and Münster alone. The greater part of its buildings and its fortifications are of ancient date; nor have some scrupled to assert, that its foundation was laid by Charlemagne, at the epoch of his incorporation of the Saxons with his mighty empire, between the years 772 and 804. This problematical assumption I shall leave, however, to the sagacious research of the antiquarian, and content myself with observing, that Osnaburg at the present day contains from eight to nine thousand souls, who inhabit about fourteen hundred houses. Its streets are in general well paved, but narrow and irregular, and there is no city perhaps to be found which can boast of so great a number of handsome structures within a similar extent. The metropolitan palace, built nearly a century ago on an extensive scale, and formerly appertaining to the Electorate of Brunswic, is particularly deserving of notice; and the spot which now forms the bishop's garden, was once the site of the palace and citadel of Petersburg, the demolition of which took place in 1647: these I was unfortunately prevented from exploring, as they were then the head quarters of General Desolles. But the same obstacles did not operate in regard to the catholic cathedral and town hall, in the former of which are seen, amongst many other relics and mouldering vestiges of ancient times, the imperishable remains of St. Crispin and Crispinianus; and in the latter the portraits of the envoys who assisted at the famous treaty of Westphalia.* They are hung up in the hall where the congress

* The fallacy of all human speculations, so strikingly exemplified in the fate of this remarkable treaty, brings to mind a singular trait related in "Birken's Ehrenspiegel des Erzhauses Oestreich," of Cuntz von der Rosen, Jester to Maximilian

gress was held; and it is remarkable, that this hall has been carefully kept in the same state in which the Envoys left it, with the velvet-covered furniture, the closets, tables, and benches which they made use of. Whether this treaty be regarded as a blessing, or as an accessory cause of the dreadful dissensions in which the powers of Europe have been since involved, it is impossible to enter this hall and contemplate the group which it presents but with feelings of awe and reverence. What an interesting field does it offer to the meditation of the physiognomist, the historian, or the antiquarian: here the one may dwell with delight on the imposing costume of former times; the other may contemplate those manifestations of our internal nature, the human species;—here, we greet a Salvius and d'Avaux; there, a Trautmannsdorf and an Oxenstierna.

To return from this momentary, and, I hope, not ill-timed digression. For the last twenty years or more, Oznaburg has derived essential benefit from commercial enterprize and the manufacture of tobacco; and the increase of wealth which has ensued has naturally produced a greater relish for the indulgences of luxury and social intercourse. Thence we may trace the origin of a weekly club, which is conducted on a lively and liberal scale; and thence, also, the additional stimulus which has been given to the spirit of humanity, that so nobly distinguishes the wealthier classes.

At no period has Oznaburg been excelled by its neighbours in the cultivation of literature and the fine arts. Witness, the early adoption of Luther's enlightened doctrines; the great men who effected it, Möser, Jerusalem, and others; and the present state of the Lutheran gymnasium, which has conferred so much honour on this city since its first establishment in 1595. The learned and worthy members, to whom its conduct is now entrusted, manifest the most praiseworthy zeal in the discharge of their several functions, and are nobly seconded by the energy of an enlightened magistracy. It is to be hoped that the legislature will shortly grant them a remuneration more proportionate to their meritorious exertions than that they now enjoy. I have to regret, that the shortness of my stay prevented my visiting a female gymnasium, of which mention was made in terms of high eulogy.

The fine arts are also cultivated here by men of no little talent. Amongst these is Wessel, a sculptor, who resided many years in London, and studied anatomy under Hunter. His work-shop contained several

Maximilian the first. In 1510, Cuntz attended the Emperor at the Diet of Augsburg, where negotiations for peace were pending, and one day suddenly came forward, and asked his auditors, "How old do you take me to be? One guessing this age, and the other that, Cuntz exclaimed, "*You are all wrong! I am more than two hundred years old; for I have survived the two treaties of Hagenau and Camerich, each of which was calculated for a century's duration!*"—What an admirable lesson for monarchs, who reign in such melancholy times as our own!

several chefs d'œuvres of their kind, which have justly acquired him celebrity in foreign parts. At Veltmann's, an apothecary, as well as an organist of considerable note, I saw a musical instrument, somewhat similar to the Orchestrino, invented by Poulleau, of Moscow. It resembles an organ in make, is played like a piano, unites the tones of that instrument with those of a violin, a bassoon, and a flute, and was built by one Courtain, the maker of the organs erected in the cathedral and St. Mary's church.

I shall now endeavour to give some idea of the internal state of those parts of Westphalia which till lately formed the secular bishoprick of Osnaburg. This country is extremely well peopled, for it contains 136,000 inhabitants on a surface of 870 square miles, making above 152 souls to each square mile. The returns of its cultivation are insufficient for the maintenance of its population: this is partly owing to the poverty of its soil, and partly (perhaps still more) to the neglect of its agriculturists, and the lamentable effects of incorporating small into large farms. In good years, to use the country expression, rye and oats are barely adequate to its consumption, and wheat and barley never. The growth of hemp, as well as flax, is an object of great attention in most districts, and their manufacture has been calculated to yield a net return of above four hundred thousand pounds annually; though this, indeed, goes chiefly in barter for manufactured goods and grain. This country can boast of no other manufactures of much importance, than four of tobacco, one of hats, and one of coarse china; its fuel consists of coals, which it yields of an excellent quality, and turf. Its chief exports are linen, of which large quantities are bought up for the English and Spanish markets; quills, yarn, wool, and pork. The summer migration, in search of labour, to Holland, once prevailed to a great extent; but that has rapidly declined of late years, few only of the lowest classes passing over into Holland and East Friesland, where they find employment for six or eight weeks in the summer months. This practice obtains universally throughout Westphalia. Considerable emolument, I had omitted to mention, is also acquired by the manufacture of salt, which is carried on to a great extent at Rothenfelde, near Dissen.

I can say little of the scenery of this quondam bishoprick, but that the lower parts are flat, and the north-eastern districts on the confines of the territory of Minden, hilly, and occasionally romantic.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

S.

OBSERVATIONS ON ACADEMICAL DEGREES.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

NO reply having yet appeared in the Athenæum to the queries of *Toxophiles* relative to academical degrees, I am induced to send

send a few observations on the subject, though I acknowledge myself incompetent to afford all the information that may be desired.

I am unwilling to suppose that any member of an English university can be so ignorant as to imagine that the degree of Master of Arts is unknown in foreign seminaries of the like kind, or that one university is not just as much authorised as another to confer that, or any other academical honour. In some universities, indeed, the title of A.M. is superseded by that of Doctor in Philosophy; but others retain it; and I find that the eminent critic Ruhnken had it conferred upon him at Wittenberg, and never took any other degree. I think, also, that Beattie was a Master of Arts of Aberdeen when he published that Essay on Truth which obtained so much applause from the English episcopal bench. The meaning, then, of the writer animadverted upon by Toxophiles could only have been, that such foreign titles are not recognized in England; and this, I doubt not, is the fact, as far as they bestow civil rank and privileges. Whether the same rule is followed in all foreign countries I am not sufficiently informed; but I should conclude in the affirmative, from the interest each country has in giving particular advantages to its own seats of learning. There is, however, another light in which this matter is to be considered.

Letters have been called a *republic*; and with propriety; the whole lettered world composing a public which acknowledges no superior, and distributes its honours and distinctions upon the principle of perfect equality. An author, as such, belongs to this republic, which is paramount to every local or national literary institution, and bears the same relation to them all. It cannot, therefore, be doubted, that, as members of this great community, all individuals have an equal right to make use of such titles as may have been conferred upon them by bodies invested with legal authority for that purpose; and that if the title be allowed currency in one instance, it must in another; for who is authorised to make the distinction? A doctor of the Sorbonne may have no claim to take his seat among the doctorial hoods at an Oxford or Cambridge Act; but he has certainly the same right with them of putting D.D. after his name in the title-page of a book; and when such book is quoted by a writer of another country, it would be highly indecent and unjust to omit his academical appellation. By virtue of this rule, therefore, in the instance adverted to by Toxophiles, every man of liberal sentiments must condemn that arrogance and prejudice which questions a right in the member of any university to make use of the title it has conferred upon him, especially when appearing in the character of a citizen of the republic of letters.

The intrinsic value and respectability of such degrees is another question, only to be determined by the reputation of the particular university, and the process by which it confers its literary honours. When they are obtained by purchase, or by favour, without either residence or examination, they certainly have little claim to be regarded as proofs of learning or talents; and it must be acknowledged that some of the universities of the sister kingdom have greatly depreciated their

their honours by such an abuse. "You will grow rich by degrees," said Dr. Johnson to the professors of St. Andrews. On the other hand, examinations like those stigmatized by Dr. Knox, may be gone through with little expence of either learning or sense. The "cap well lined with logic not his own" has served many a dunce; and even a residence of many years at a famous seat of erudition is no warrant against stupidity and ignorance. In reality, it is not till *after* a degree is obtained that a commencement is generally made of distinction in the literary world; and one who wishes to appreciate the pretensions of a man of letters will never be satisfied with looking at his diploma.

Yours, &c.

A GRADUATE.

SKETCH OF A TOUR INTO THE COUNTY OF WICKLOW

(Concluded).

In size, population, and consequence, Arklow ranks as one of the principal towns in the county of Wicklow. Its situation near the mouth of the Ovoka, renders it accessible to vessels of considerable burthen, and gives employment to a number of the inhabitants in the fishery along the coast. The upper part of the town is neat and well built; but the lower portion, or that nearest the sea, is miserable in the extreme; consisting of an irregular assemblage of mud-cabins, in which external deformity and internal discomfort are equally conspicuous. The only considerable building in the place is a large barrack, usually occupied by a regiment of militia; besides this, several houses in the town, formerly the residence of private individuals, are now devoted to the use of the soldiery. The population of Arklow is probably about two thousand. I speak on supposition alone; but considering the number and crowded population of the cabins in the lower part of the town, it is not likely that this statement exceeds the truth. In walking through the place, we were amused by the uncouthness and oddity of the signs over the shop doors; a circumstance, indeed, which catches the attention of the stranger in most of the country towns in Ireland. Casual errors in orthography may well be expected; but it would seem as if the sign painters in these places had no idea of uniformity in design: rarely does it happen that two letters come together of the same character and size, and still less frequently is an entire word completed without the position of some of its letters either above or below the line. The common types of the printer could not convey a representation of these singular performances; often singular, indeed, in the matter as well as manner of execution, and furnishing curious illustrations of the character and habits of the people.

Arklow formed the scene of one of the most important events which
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occurred during the rebellion in Ireland. The battle fought here on the 9th of June, 1798, was of the utmost moment, not only in its immediate effects, but more especially as it involved the fate of the metropolis, which, had the insurgents been successful, must almost inevitably have fallen into their power. The army of the rebels on this occasion numbered not less than 25,000 men, several thousands of whom were in possession of fire-arms. This vast multitude, headed by Father John Murphy, a priest who possessed great influence over the minds of the people, advanced from Gorey, a town on the northern frontier of Wexford, and approaching Arklow, which is at a very short distance from the boundary of the two counties, attacked the town impetuously in several points. The troops defending the place, including the yeomanry, amounted only to sixteen hundred men. This inferiority of numbers was compensated by superior steadiness and discipline; and after a severe action, in which the courage and perseverance of the royal troops were exposed to an arduous trial, the rebels were compelled to retreat into the county of Wexford, with a loss of several hundred men. The Durham regiment of fencibles, commanded by Colonel Skerrett, sustained the severest part in the battle, and obtained great credit by their steadiness and soldier-like conduct. The town of Arklow suffered greatly on this occasion. A division of the insurgent force, advancing by the sea-shore, entered the lower part of the town, repulsed a body of cavalry stationed there, and fired the thatched roofs of the cabins as they passed along the street. Many of these ruined buildings remain at the present day, a melancholy testimonial to the horrors of the scene.

A conversation we had with the landlady of the inn at Arklow, clearly evinced that the recollection of the events of the rebellion is still feelingly alive among the middle and lower classes in this district. Can the circumstance be deemed surprizing? More wonderful, surely, it would have been, had a forgetfulness prevailed of the many evils which these events inflicted on the well-disposed part of the community; more singular by far, had the feeling which prompted the turbulent and ill-disposed to acts of open hostility, so soon subsided into a calm and placid repose, the causes which produced this feeling being still in existence! It might justly be thought presumptuous in one who saw Ireland merely as a passing visitor, to employ the positive assertions of experience and observation with respect to the real state of this country: every thing I did see and hear, however, so uniformly tended to one point, that the mind was inevitably led to form a conclusion for itself. Ireland is at this moment in a state of perfect calm; but the public feeling of the country has undergone little alteration: the inflammable materials are still there, and, if but kindled into flame, may rage with more violence than ever. The catholics at large are dissatisfied with their present situation, and ardently desire some change in it. A sentiment which pervades four millions of people is not to be lightly trifled with; or it may outgrow opposition, and effect by force what submission failed to produce. Often as the arguments

arguments for the repeal of the laws which regard the catholics have been urged, it would appear well that they should still be dwelt upon and kept present to the mind of every Englishman; that a due preparation may be made in the public mind for that period, certainly approaching, when either the urgent pressure of necessity, or the influence of a more enlightened policy, will enforce the entire and complete removal of these restrictions.

That there does exist some radical defect in the government of Ireland, some evil which depresses the best energies of the nation, must be allowed by every one who surveys impartially the events of the last few years. If it be otherwise, why the many legal fetters which are deemed expedient to secure the tranquillity of the people? whence the necessity of keeping a vast military force in the country? and why the peculiar apprehensions of invasion directed to this part of the empire? The non-residence of proprietors, the impositions of the *middle-men*, and other alleged grievances, afford no adequate explanation of these facts: the laws regarding the catholics must be considered the grand source and foundation of the evils which affect the present state of Ireland. There still, however, remains a method, by which it is probable that the progress of discontent might be arrested, and the affections of the Irish finally conciliated to their government. That the measures of mildness and toleration may be adopted, while their operation will yet avail in producing this happy effect, must be the prayer of every one who wishes well to the interests of his country.

After having seen every thing worthy of notice in Arklow, and taken some refreshment there, we proceeded on our return towards Rathdrum, where we proposed again to pass the night. We did not, however, retrace exactly the steps of the morning, but took the road on the opposite side of the Ovoka, a plan which I should strongly recommend to every one who travels through this country. Crossing the river by a bridge of eighteen arches, and proceeding for two or three miles, we entered the picturesque demesne of Balli-arthur, the seat of Mr. Sims. The road conducted us through these grounds under the shade of the luxuriant and beautiful woods which overhang the stream, and still pursuing the course of the valley, brought us to the Cronebawn copper-mine. The circumstances connected with the situation and products of this mine are almost precisely similar to those of the Ballinmurtagh mines before described; and, as at the latter place, the workings of the ore are here also for the present discontinued. Some quantity of the metal, however, is still procured from a stream impregnated with the native sulphate of copper, which running down from the hill of Cronebawn, is conveyed into small clay-pits, where the oxide of copper is copiously precipitated on the addition of refuse iron. Passing the house of Mr. Weaver, the conductor of these mines, which has, perhaps, the finest situation in the vale of the Ovoka, we crossed the river near the confluence of the Avonmore and Avonbeck, and entered the very extensive demesne of Avondale, which

which in the morning we had approached without entering. The romantic and varied character of these scenes, and the singular beauty of the evening, rendered the remainder of our walk to Rathdrum most interesting and delightful, and we bade farewell to the valley of the Ovoka with feelings of real regret.

After a night at Rathdrum, rendered uncomfortable by the nature of the accommodations there, we continued our return towards Dublin, which we proposed, by forced marches, to reach on the evening of the same day; varying our route, however, considerably, by keeping nearer to the sea. Our first stage from Rathdrum was to Newry-bridge, ten miles, which we accomplished before breakfast. The road is an excellent one all the way, and the country, though flat when compared with that we had lately traversed, yet picturesque and pleasing in its features. Several neat and populous villages, and many gentlemen's seats occurred to our notice: among the former, the village of Glenely, half way between Rathdrum and Newry-bridge, is particularly striking. The land hereabouts is good, and lets for 4l. the Irish, or about 50s. the English acre. When within a mile or two of Newry-bridge, we deviated from the road into the grounds of Rosanna, the seat of Mrs. Tighe; in which, with little variety of surface, a most pleasing effect is produced by the beauty of the woods, and the character of rural retirement and elegance which pervades the scene. The comfortable appearance of the cottages in the neighbourhood of Rosanna, and a flourishing school, instituted and supported by Mrs. Tighe, are at once a testimony to the active benevolence of this lady, and a gratifying expression of the effects of a personal attention to the habits and condition of the lower classes. Pursuing a pleasant path under the venerable oaks and limes which adorn the demesne, we re-entered the road just by Newry-bridge.

We found the inn here larger and more comfortable than any we had yet seen in Wicklow, and can safely recommend it to all travellers in this district. It is pleasingly situated upon the banks of the river Fartrey, which rising in the mountains near Luggie-law, and running through the Devil's Glen, enters the sea at the town of Wicklow, about two miles below Newry-bridge. The gardens connected with the inn are large and well laid out: the house itself was at this time filled with travellers of different descriptions; the greater number apparently engaged in surveying the beauties of the country.

Our next stage took us again to Newtown, eight miles from Newry-bridge. As there was nothing in this part of the road to engage a particular attention, we determined to relieve our day's walk by taking a chaise between the two places. From the appearance of things at Newry-bridge, we had supposed that we might be better accommodated here than is usual at the inns in Ireland. Our expectations, however, were greatly disappointed. The chaise brought out for us was miserable in its appearance, and the horses seemed as if scarcely able to drag it along. We, nevertheless, with the aid of the whip, and ejaculations of our driver, set off on a full gallop, which was only suspended

suspended by the coming off of one of the wheels, in descending a hill. This accident repaired in a way which, though sufficiently rude, would probably serve the next party travelling in the chaise, we proceeded with somewhat more caution on our road. As not a single entire pane of glass remained in the window-frames of the chaise, we were enabled to keep up a pretty constant intercourse with our driver, a shrewd, ingenious fellow, who gave us a good deal of information with respect to the catholics in this district. If his account might be credited, and it was confirmed to me from several other quarters, the labour undergone by the catholic priests in the country parishes must be exceedingly great. Besides the performance of the public duties required by their religion, they are accustomed at least once a month to go round to the houses or cabins of their several parishioners, receiving confessions, and administering absolution; for which office they receive, in this part of the country, thirteen pence Irish money, or one shilling English from an adult; from one under adult age, half this sum. The practice in these points, as I afterwards found, is materially different in other parts of Ireland; in the towns it being usual to pay an annual sum, according to the condition of the individual, in lieu of the donation at each time of confession. The influence which the catholic priests possess and exercise over the minds of the lower classes is truly surprising. In Dublin it not unfrequently happens that plundered property is restored to its rightful owner through the medium of some one of the priests, who has received the confession of the offender, and has refused to give absolution till the property was restored. It must be remarked, however, that the name of the offender is never on such occasions made known.

Arrived at Newtown, we took a little refreshment there, and again resumed our pedestrian labours; if labours they could indeed be called, where so many interesting objects were offered to the attention. At a short distance from Newtown we varied our route by passing through the demesne of Mount-Kennedy, the seat of Mr. Gunn: these grounds, like most of the others we saw in Wicklow, are ornamented with a rich profusion of wood, and possess a picturesque and pleasing character. A further progress of three or four miles brought us to the beautiful village of Delgany, well known in this part of Ireland as a principal scene of the public spirit and benevolence of the Latouche family, to which, indeed, it may be considered as owing its existence. Few spots can be conceived more interesting than this little village. Pleasantly situated on the gentle declivity of a hill, each individual habitation bears the marks of a rural and simple elegance; each inhabitant carries with him the appearance of neatness and comfort. The church, which is a large and handsome building, erected at the expence of the Latouche family, contains a most interesting piece of sculpture, dedicated to the memory of the celebrated David Latouche, a man whose immense wealth was only known by the noble and generous purposes to which it was applied. The design and execution of this monument are equally elegant. The pedestal, on which is represented the figure of

of David Latouche, is supported by his three sons, the present Mr. Latouches, in whose figures the skill of the artist has been exerted with the happiest effect. The figure of the late Mrs. Peter Latouche is also introduced into the piece, leaning down at the feet of her father-in-law. This monument was, I believe, the work of Hickey, an Irish artist, whose genius rendered his early death a loss to the country: the sum expended upon it considerably exceeded 2000*l*. The other parts of the church are perfectly appropriate to this splendid embellishment. One portion of it is set apart to the use of a large school, which the present Mrs. P. Latouche supports in the village; conferring thereby the noblest of all charities, those habits of industry, sobriety, and order, which are never obliterated in after life. Several other flourishing schools in the north of Wicklow have been established and are supported by the benevolence of this lady. This is the true *succedaneum* for the happiness and interests of Ireland; encouragement instead of oppression, kindness in lieu of neglect—*Quod petis, hic est*.

Leaving Delgany, we entered the grounds of Bellevue, the seat of Peter Latouche, Esq. which are immediately adjoining the village. This demesne is exceeded in beauty by no other in the county of Wicklow. Bounded on one side by a deep and romantic hollow, called the Glen of the Downs, on another by the more gradual declivity towards Delgany and the sea, it presents a variety of surface and a happy combination of the graces of art with those of nature, which render it a truly interesting spot. The situation of the house, which is large and well built, has been chosen with great judgment. It commands a sea view, superior in magnificence of effect to any I have ever before witnessed: the eye follows without interruption the windings of the coast from Bray Head to the promontory of Wicklow towards the south, comprehending besides the vast plain which intervenes between the mountains and the shore. The gardens at Bellevue are well worthy of notice. The green and hot-houses, arranged in a continued line, not less, I should conceive, than 300 feet in length, contain a remarkably fine collection of plants. The domestic chapel will also arrest the attention of the stranger by the taste and elegance displayed in its structure. The vicinity of the two Sugar-Loaf mountains to the grounds at Bellevue, adds materially to the picturesque effect of the scene.

From Bellevue we proceeded to Bray, four miles distant, leaving the Little Sugar Loaf mountain at a short distance to the left hand. In this part of our walk we enjoyed many striking views along the coast, and some interesting retrospective glances of the country through which we had lately been wandering. We reached Bray to a late dinner, and in the evening took our places for Dublin in a long coach, which passes every day between the two places. We entered the metropolis about nine o'clock; the magnificence of the streets and buildings, aided by the dubious glimmering of the lamps, afforded a singular

singular contrast to the meanness and poverty of the country towns which we had just visited.

Such, Sir, is a sketch (to your readers, perhaps, sufficiently long and tedious) of a tour, which, from experience of its pleasures, I can strongly recommend to every one who visits Ireland. From the situation of Wicklow with respect to Dublin, the excursion is often practicable, when restrictions upon his time prevent the traveller from proceeding further into the country. In making this recommendation, however, it is proper to mention, that in the tour I have been describing was omitted, from want of sufficient time, one of the most interesting objects in this district, Glendalloch, or the Seven Churches. This spot is situated seven or eight miles north-west of Rathdrum, and is by no means difficult of access. A period of five days absence from Dublin will enable the traveller to include it with every other part of the tour; and if he deem not the devotion of this short time amply repaid, I shall be content in future to resign all my pretensions to judgment in matters of taste.

With much respect, I am, Sir, yours, &c.

AMICUS.

ON THE CRITICOPHOBIA.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

AMONG the various reports of diseases published every month, I have in vain looked for some account of an epidemical sickness which has of late become very prevalent. I have since examined several most ingenious treatises on pathology, with no better success; indeed so totally insignificant does this disorder appear, in the eyes of medical writers, that they have not even vouchsafed it a name; and although it is continually spreading, yet the unfortunate patients, far from obtaining compassion and relief, are generally ridiculed when they venture to give utterance to their complaints.

The disorder I speak of rages like the plague at stated periods; generally once a month, sometimes once a quarter. It affects the mind as well as the body, and, like many other ailments, it is confined to a particular class of individuals. An able essay has been written on the maladies incident to watch-makers, glass-blowers, snuff-makers, cutlers, chimney-sweepers, and other particular callings, and this might be enumerated among them. It is peculiar to men of letters; I do not mean type-founders, but authors, and especially poets. Let me not be anticipated—though it returns periodically, and though it affects the mind as well as the body, I do not mean to confound it with lunacy, since it proceeds from an entirely different cause. Like the canine madness, it is generally communicated by a *bite*; I shall, therefore, term it the *Criticophobia*.

The

The leading symptom of the Criticophobia is a nervous restlessness, which usually comes on towards the end of a month or a quarter, and continues, with intermissions, for several days. The patient has a most insatiable appetite for Reviews, though he shudders at the sight or even name of one; thus, as in the case of hydrophobia, he feels a raging thirst, yet abhors the means of assuaging it. After the crisis of his disorder, if he do not recover at once, he either feels an excessive flow of joy, or sinks into a state of despondency, from which he is no sooner restored than he is liable to a relapse. The degree of restlessness is different in different constitutions; in some it amounts to phrenzy, and threatens the most serious consequences. As I before observed, it prevails usually towards the end of a month; but the quarterly attacks are by far the most formidable, and the patients, like Percy, are seen to throw "many a northward look," denoting the approach of a paroxysm. It is no wonder that the disease should be epidemical, since the subjects of it are eager to spread the contagion; hence, if an author should have the fortitude to abstain from Reviews, in the hope of resisting their influence, he generally meets some kind friend who tells him that he has undergone revision, and then the fit seizes him directly. Whether he be praised or blamed, *puffed* or *cut up*, the phobia will possess him in an equal degree; and it will leave him, as a cold does, more assailable to the elements than he was before. He will have become aware of the mutual counteraction of these morbid powers, and he will have felt that they blow like hot and cold siroccos in the literary atmosphere, so that if he have been warmed into a fever one month, he may be chilled into an ague the next.

Having briefly described the disease, I beg leave to recommend the following remedy:

Take—Crit. nine vols.
Brit. Crit. nine vols.
Monthl. nine vols.
Eclec. quant. suff.

From these drugs, mixed secundum artem, will be produced a neutral salt, which must be taken in large doses at those seasons when the disorder prevails. It will operate as a sedative. Where the constitution will bear it, a few scruples of the Edin. acid may be taken at intervals. The patient must be kept still and quiet, and all new stitched books, with blue covers, must be removed from his sight.

This remedy has been tried in various instances with success.

Yours, DEMOCRITUS MINOR.

LAND CARRIAGE IN RUSSIA.

Though a great part of the internal trade of the Russian empire is carried on by water communication, land carriage is also necessary, because many of the towns are not situated on navigable rivers, nor is every province intersected by canals. To render this mode of conveyance more expeditious, care has been taken to improve the state of the roads; but in this respect Russia seems still to be considerably behind many of the other nations of Europe. According to some of the old annalists, roads began to be constructed in Russia at a very early period. In the year 1014, Vladimir gave orders that highways should be mended and bridges built, to facilitate an expedition he had undertaken against Novgorod, which refused to pay him tribute; but the first regular road in this empire was begun by Peter the Great, between Petersburg and Narva. The trees on both sides of it being cut down and placed across it, were covered with gravel, so that according to an eye witness it might truly be called a royal road, and compared with the highways of the ancient Romans. This prince caused other roads to be constructed, and particularly that from Petersburg to Moskva, which was completed with great difficulty and much expence about the year 1718. Both these highways, and those to Archangel and Voronesh, were planted with trees; but the woods, to the distance of a musket shot on each side, were cut down, that travelling might be rendered more agreeable and less dangerous. Another excellent regulation was, that the emperor ordered all the roads in the kingdom to be measured, and stones, on which the distance from one town to another is marked, to be erected.

Under the succeeding reigns attempts were made to improve gradually the rest of the roads; but it may be readily conceived, that in so extensive an empire they cannot be every where the same; and if travellers sometimes complain of their wretched condition, this defect seems chiefly to arise from the way in which they are constructed. The roads in Russia are generally repaired in the following manner: Trees or planks are laid across them, and fastened at both ends by means of stakes driven into the earth; fascines, or the branches of trees, are then placed above them, and the whole is covered with a stratum of earth or of sand. As long as a road of this kind is new, travelling is easy and agreeable; but when the trees sink into the ground, and the sand falls into the interstices between them by the jolting of carriages, or is washed away by the rain, the road becomes filled with holes, which render travelling difficult and laborious.

This method of constructing roads is not only bad because it renders continual repairs necessary, but it occasions a prodigious consumption of timber, which might be employed to much better purpose. To remedy so great an evil, Catharine II. in the year 1786, established a commission of roads, which had orders to cause the principal highways in the kingdom to be paved with stones. For the ac-

complishment of this grand undertaking, the commission at first imagined that five millions of roubles would be sufficient, but they afterwards raised their estimate to seven, which was accordingly granted. The construction of bridges being the most urgent business, the commission exerted themselves with so much activity, that in a very short time 180 new ones were built, for the most part, of granite; and, in the course of a very few years, above three hundred versts of the causeway from St. Petersburg to Moskva, or nearly one-half of the distance between these two cities, was completed. The road also between St. Petersburg and Riga was begun, and above 80000 roubles were expended on the work; but the war in which Russia was then engaged put a stop to these useful labours, and on the death of Catharine II. the commission of highways was abolished by her successor.

The want of good roads in Russia becomes daily more sensible, in consequence of the increase of its internal trade; but it is not felt so much in this empire as in many other countries. In most of the districts travelling and the transportation of goods during several months in the year is facilitated by the nature of the climate, as sledges can be conveyed over the frozen snow much better than common carriages can on the best roads in summer. In winter a horse with a sledge can pass over in a given time a distance greater by one-half than he could in summer with a cart. Journeys are then performed with much greater speed; the carriages are simpler as well as cheaper, and last much longer. To these advantages another may be added; the roads are much shorter, as people can then proceed in a straight line over rivers, lakes, and morasses without the least impediment. On this account the transportation of large and heavy packages is put off till winter, and the freight at this season is so small, that it scarcely exceeds the expence of water conveyance in some of the provinces. To give an idea of the difference between the price of freight in summer and in winter, it needs only be remarked, that in the former the carriage from St. Petersburg to Moskva costs from 90 to 100 copecs per pod; but in the latter, according to the nature of the path, from 25 to 30 or 50 at most.

Cartage in Russia forms a very extensive business, as may be seen by the great number of persons employed in this occupation. According to the revision of the year 1783, there were above 38000 carters in twenty of the governments as then established, and of these 6691 belonged to Novgorod. These people form a peculiar class among the boors, and are particularly specified in all enumerations of the people. They are called *Yemshtshiki*, or post boors, because they supply travellers with horses for their carriages at the different stations, and they are united in a particular guild, subject to their own officers and regulations. Another class, called *Isroshtshiki*, are boors, who in the intervals during their agricultural labours, but chiefly in winter, employ themselves as carriers. In the year 1713 Peter the Great gave orders that the *Yemshtshiki* horse, which stood ready at the different stations, should not be used for drawing carts; and by this regulation separated

separated entirely the business of letting post horses from that of letting carriages. The *Yemshtshiki*, however, were still allowed to keep more horses than the number appointed for each station, and to employ them in the transportation of goods.

The Russian carriers generally travel in companies or caravans of from twenty five to a hundred carts, each drawn by a single horse, and undertake very long journies, not only within the kingdom but to foreign countries, and particularly to Dantzic, Königsberg, Berlin, Breslau, and Leipsic. Sometimes they even convey travellers to Vienna and Paris. The price of carriage is charged per pood, according to the weight. A cart or sledge with one horse can carry, according to the nature of the road, from twenty-five to thirty-five poods; and one man generally drives two carts. Internal navigation in Russia is burdened with no tolls, and the case is the same in regard to the transportation of goods by land.

The merchants of Riga since the year 1780 have established a company of carriers, into which a certain number only are admitted. They set out every fortnight from that city, with money and goods for Petersburg, and bring back other articles in return. The merchants have entered into an engagement to employ no other conveyance under the penalty of a hundred ducats; and each carter, after every journey, lays by two roubles and a half, in order to form a permanent fund, to make good any loss in case of unfortunate accidents. This is the only establishment in Russia for the regular transportation of merchandize from one trading city to another.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERIT OF MR. JOHN CLERK.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

TO John Clerk, of Eldin, author of the *Essay on Naval Tactics*, this country stands indebted, for the detection of that manœuvre of the French, by which they had so long baffled the skill and the courage of our navy in every great engagement prior to the 12th April, 1782, and for the invention of the counter-manœuvre of *cutting the line*, which, gallantly executed, has thrown such lustre over the names of Rodney, Howe, Duncan, Jervis, and Nelson.

At a period of peril like this, when every energy of talent and virtue ought to be excited, to save our country from ruin, it is not very consolatory to reflect on the cold ingratitude shewn to a public service of the very highest and most splendid utility.

“When peerages and pensions are voted with a prudent liberality to every Admiral who leads British seamen into battle, is it not humiliating to consider, that the great inventor of naval tactics has received no tribute of national approbation or applause? while the humblest of his disciples, the most mechanical interpreter of his instructions, is elevated

elevated to the highest pinnacle of popularity and fortune, is it not unaccountable, that their acknowledged preceptor should be permitted to fall into neglect and oblivion, and to grow old, without being visited by one ray of public acknowledgment or distinction?"*

Under the influence of these sentiments, three gentlemen in the north of England took upon themselves the honour of presenting to Mr. Clerk a piece of silver plate, with an inscription, commemorative of their grateful sense of his public merits; and in announcing their intention, thus addressed the venerable old man:

"Tardy as you may have found the expression of national gratitude for benefits, such as it is seldom the lot of one man in a century to confer; yet private individuals are not wanting, who know how to estimate the value of your magnificent invention in naval tactics, and who, as lovers of their country, are anxious personally to testify their obligation to that genius, by which ultimately, perhaps, Britain in its worst of times has been saved from destruction."

The present, a silver two-handled bowl with a cover, has the following lines inscribed on it:

IOANNI . CLERK . ELDINENSI
OB . STRATEGEMA . NAVALE
CUM . IN . SALUTEM . TUM . IN . GLORIAM
BRITANNICI . NOMINIS
FELICIS . EXCOGITATUM
BENEFICII . PUBLICI . PIE . MEMORES
D . DD.
I . H . I . F . I . T .
CAL . JUNII . A . C . M . DCCC . VIII .

I am, Mr. Editor, your constant reader,
M. & D.

9th Jan. 1809.

* Edinburgh Review, No. XII. July, 1805, where a very masterly account of Mr. Clerk's work is given, and a strong statement of the merits of the author.

COLLECTANEA OXONIENSIA; OR, LETTERS TO AND FROM
EMINENT PERSONS, FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE
BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

Sir JOHN COTTON* to Dr. SMITH.

If you please to retire for some time from the smoke and the noise of the city, you shall be most heartily welcome to my poor villa at Stratton. I will give you the same invitation which the noble Scaliger gave to his learned friend Isaac Casaubon. Cubiculum tibi adornabo,

* Grandson of Sir Robert Cotton, founder of the Cotton library, now in the British Museum.

adornabo, quod nullum præter te ornamentum habebit. Invenies enim paupertinam quidem, sed mundam suppellectilem, et concham salis puri, et ante omnia pectus tibi devotissimum.

I am your faithful friend and servant,

J. COTTON.

From the same to the same.

Stratton, Oct. 13, 1686.

Sir,

I return you very many thanks (*ὅσα ψαμθοῦς τι κοινῇ τι*) to use my old friend Homer's expression, for the great kindness and care which you shewed to my son in his travels. I am very glad if your short stay at Stratton was not unpleasant unto you. I am sure I received great satisfaction in your learned conversation. I confess I have always taken much delight, *ἐν σκοτῶν καθίσταται, καὶ ἀνώνυμον βίον διαγίγναι*, to use the words of the prince of lyric poets, and I find no great reason now in my old age to alter my resolution. I have now settled my son Robert in the noble college of Trinity; I hope he will take to learning, and become useful to his country and his relations. I dare not say to him, without a great allowance for my vanity,

Disce puer virtutem ex me, verumque laborem;
Fortunam ex aliis.

I give you many thanks for your intelligence as to news. I desire you to send me a Brussels Gazette, and be pleased to inform Mr. Vigures, a coffee man in the old palace in Westminster, how he may send one every week. I would gladly, likewise, have a news letter every week from a good intelligencer. But I exceed the bounds of a letter, *amicitia erga te mea, non loquacitas epistolam facit longiorem*.

I am, your most affectionate friend and servant,

J. COTTON.

From the same to the same.

Sir,

I received your letter, and return you very many thanks for your kind proposals concerning my library. Truly, Sir, we are fallen into so dangerous times, that it may be more for the advantage of my private concerns, and the public too, that the library should not be too much known. There are many things in it, which are very cross to the Romish interest, and you know what kind of persons the Jesuits are. My little villa at Stratton is now very pleasant; if you please (whilst your college is now in trouble) to make this place your retreat, you shall be most heartily welcome, and then we shall have time to discourse

discourse of this and other affairs. Pray forget not to present my service to Sir W. Hayward.

I am your most affectionate friend and servant,

J. COTTON.

Stratton, June 30, 1687.

From the same to the same.

Sir,

I give you many thanks (οσα φαρμαθος τε κοινης τε, to use my old friend Homer's words) for the book you sent me. I have always very much loved and esteemed Sannazarius. I am of Joseph Scaliger's opinion, that for elegancy and purity of language he doth contend with the ancients. This edition is very neat and correct. I have written to John Viguers, that Betty Hart should let you into the library when you please. As for any thing of a bond, I desire none. I know you, and confide in your worth and honesty. I enjoy (God be thanked) very good health; and I converse sometimes with the poets, to sweeten the ill humour and chagrin which is incident to my years. A decent gravity is commendable in old age, but all sourness is to be avoided. But in my retired thoughts I cannot but lament the condition of mankind, who does not suffer so much by the calamities incident unto his nature, diseases, pestilential ague, fires, inundations, as by those which he brings upon himself by his own folly and madness. When you meet Sir Philip Meadows, I desire you to present my service to him. In return of his elegant verses, I have sent him an epigramme upon the day of our Saviour's birth. In this traffic of poetry, I am the great gainer, for Sir Ph. doth exchange (as Glaucus did with Diomedes) χρυσεν αλαλκειων. I ask your pardon for giving you the trouble of this long letter, upon the account that I am

Your faithful friend and servant,

J. COTTON.

Stratton, Jan. 1, 1690.

From the same to the same.

Sir,

I am glad to find by your letter to me, that you are so firmly resolved to go on with the work of my grandfather's life. You will do a great honour to our family. For as Pliny saith of Martial, who writ of him and his way of living a very elegant epigram, I will give you Pliny's own words, for to give you them in my English is to spoil them. *Dedit mihi quantum maximum potuit, daturus amplius, si potuisset. Tametsi quid homini potest dari majus, quam gloria, et laus, et aternitas?* I am going on with my own life; but as the most incomparable

incomparable Mr. Cowley observes very ingeniously, it is a hard and nice subject for a man to write of himself; it grates his own heart to say any thing of disparagement, and the reader's ears to hear any thing of praise from him. However, having undertaken it, I intend now to go on, and I think I shall now suddenly come to an end. When I have finished it, I leave it wholly, both as to the matter and stile, to your emendations. I desire you in this to make use of your exact judgment, not your friendship. By your blots and strictures it may receive a beauty, which of itself it had not. I return you many thanks, for the account you give me of the present affairs. I think in such dubious times the best way to preserve one's quiet and innocence is to be a spectator; and *Οὐδ' ἐπιλαίωτο βολή* is the most sure and safe remedy against all the calamities of human life. By God's great mercy to me I enjoy at present so firm and an unphysick'd health, that I hope to do somewhat before I die, that I may not seem to have lived altogether to no purpose. The publishing my *Genesis* is the thing that was most in my mind, which sometimes I hope I may live to accomplish. But I forget that I write now a letter, not a treatise. Pardon me upon the account that I am

Your faithful friend and servant,

J. COTTON.

Stratton, March 14, 1691.

CLASSICAL DISQUISITIONS.

PINDAR.

The *Æolian* and other lyric poets of the sixth century before the Christian æra, writers, it is probable, of great merit, have, with the exception of some fragments, and the poems ascribed to *Anacreon*, many of which are perhaps of dubious authority, long since perished in the wreck of antiquity. It may be some consolation for the loss, that many of the works of *Pindar* remain, whom the judgment of the ancients placed at the head of the nine lyric poets.*

The life of *Pindar* was nearly coincident with that of *Æschylus*, the first of the tragic poets. The exact year of his birth is somewhat dubious, but it is probably to be placed between the limits of 520 and 517 years B. C. From the testimony of *Suidas*, compared with a passage in *Plutarch*, the latter of these dates has not without probability been chosen by some chronologers; the former is preferred by others. The place of his nativity was *Cynoscephalæ*, a village in the vicinity of

* Thus enumerated by the ancient grammarians, *Alcæus*, *Sappho*, *Stesichorus*, *Ibycus*, *Bacchylides*, *Simonides*, *Alcman*, *Anacreon*, *Pindar*.

of Thebes, the capital of a country proverbial among the ancients for the stupidity of its inhabitants, a charge which Pindar does not seem entirely to disown, while he claims for himself and his chorus an exemption from the general imputation;

γινῆναι τ' ἐπειτ' ἀρχαίων οὐκ εἰδὸς ἀλλὰ-
 δέσιν λόγοις εἰ φευγομένην, Βοιωτίαν
 '27.

Olymp. vi. 151.

The circumstances which have been transmitted to us respecting the life of Pindar are few, and in general of little importance. The ancient grammarians state his father's name to have been Daiphantus or Scopelinus, though their opinions preponderate in behalf of the former. He is said to have studied music under the instruction of his parents. It was believed by the superstition of the ancients, that various prodigies denoted the subsequent poetical eminence to which he attained. Yet the poetess Corinna, the only writer of genius whom Tanagra is recorded to have produced, gained the victory over him five times, whether from the real superiority of her performance, or, as some insinuate, from the charms of her person, the dialect in which she wrote, and the partiality or ignorance of the judges. The credit of this report rests with the later writers, and it is rendered dubious by a fragment of Corinna herself, in which she reproves Myrtis, for forgetting so far the inferiority of her sex (such is the language of Corinna) as to contend with Pindar. *Μεμφομαι ἰωγᾷ ταν λυγερᾷ, Μυρτιδα μεμφομαι, ὅτι, βαναφουσα, εἰβα Πινδαροιο ποτ' ἐριν.* Plutarch* relates that Pindar, when a youth, making an ostentatious display of his powers of language, was reproved by Corinna as unskilled in his art, and not making use of fables, according to the proper office of poetry, which employs antique and foreign phrases, and bold figures of speech, only as the ornaments of things. Pindar, paying great attention to these remarks, composed an ode, of which the introduction was to this purpose: "Shall we sing of Ismenus, or Melia with a golden distaff, or Cadmus, or the sacred race of men, the harvest of the dragon's teeth, or Thebe with dark fillets, or the intrepid might of Hercules, or the joy-inspiring Bacchus, or the marriage of the white-armed Harmonia?" When he presented this ode to Corinna, she smiled, and told him, "that he ought to sow with the hand, and not from the entire sack." The same error, if such it be, he has also committed in the introduction of one of his remaining odes.†

Pindar attained the fortieth year of his age about the seventy-fifth Olympiad, at the time of the expedition of Xerxes into Greece, and was then, according to the historian Diodorus, at the height of his renown.

The partiality of the poet for the Athenians, whom he celebrated as laying the foundation of Grecian liberty, and whose city he described

* De glor. Athen. § 4. † Isthm. vii.

as the column of Greece, drew on him the indignation of his countrymen, who punished his offence by the imposition of a heavy fine. The Athenians, grateful for the praise bestowed on their country, repaid to him double its amount. The Thebans erected no statue to him. The Athenians raised a brazen statue in his honour, which was remaining in the time of Pausanias, representing the poet with a lyre, a diadem, and a folded book upon his knees.

When Alexander destroyed Thebes, he spared the house of Pindar, a homage which the Lacedæmonians are said to have before rendered to his genius, reading on the door this verse :

Πινδαρὸν τὸ μεσοποῖον τῶν στεγῶν μὴ καίειν.

Pindar is said to have expired suddenly in the theatre or a public gymnasium, with so little apparent struggle, that, till the spectators were dismissed, he was thought to be slumbering. As some superstitious tale was connected with most important incidents of his life, it was thought necessary to give a character of mystery also to his death. In one of his poems, now lost, Pindar has related that Agamedes and Trophonius having built the temple at Delphi, begged from Apollo the reward of their service, which he promised that they should receive on the seventh day, and ordered them to spend the interval in feasting. Having done this, in the seventh night they expired during their sleep. When ambassadors were sent from the Bæotians to the temple of Apollo, Pindar requested them to consult the oracle, what is the best for mortals. The priestess replied, that Pindar could not be ignorant of that, if he were the author of the verses relating to Trophonius and Agamedes ; but that if he wished to know by experience, it should soon be manifest to him. When the answer was communicated to the poet, he understood that a sudden death was denoted by it, and soon after expired.* His age and the year of his death are uncertain.

If we depend on the encomiastic language of the ancients, we shall be led to conceive that it is difficult to estimate the genius of this poet too highly.

Pindarum quisquis studet æmulari, I—
ule, ceratis ope Dædalea
Nititur pennis, vitreo daturus
Nomina ponto,

Hor. Carm. iv. 2.

Nor, in fact, is this praise, though perhaps somewhat exaggerated, wholly destitute of foundation. It is not in our power to form a complete judgment of the genius of Pindar, because many of his works, and those perhaps the most excellent, are lost, and those which remain are confined to one species of composition, and that to modern readers not the most interesting.

VOL. V.

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The

* Plut. Cons. ad Apollon.

The fragments of Pindar collected from the ancients are arranged under the following heads, according to their subject, style of composition, and the musical modes to which they were adapted; *Scolia*, *Parthenia*, the distinguishing characters of which are obscure; *Threni*, in which the genius of Pindar was regarded by the ancients as inferior to that of *Simonides*; *Hyporchemata*, poems accompanied by dances, and chiefly devoted to the honour of *Apollo*; *Prosodia*, *Hymns*, *Pæans*, *Dithyrambi*. A considerable and remarkable fragment of a poem on an eclipse of the sun is preserved by *Dionysius of Halicarnassus*, in which the poet prays that the baneful influence of this prodigy may be averted from *Thebes*, whatever be the calamity which it forebodes, whether war, destruction to the produce of the earth, violent storms of snow, sedition, inroads of the sea, frost, a summer of incessant rain, or a deluge which should again sweep away the inhabitants of the earth.

The only remaining works of Pindar are forty-five odes, written in praise of the victors at the Olympic, Pythian, Nemean, and Isthmian games. The subjects, it must be allowed, are as unpromising as those of a modern laureat. Accordingly Pindar commonly treats his hero with very little ceremony, and bestowing on him a few lines of praise, and sometimes of advice, at the beginning and end of his ode, he usually employs the intermediate space in relating some fable of mythology, which may possess a relation more or less direct to the subject of his celebration. Thus in the longest of his remaining works, the fourth Pythian ode, addressed to *Arcesilaus*, prince of *Cyrene*, who had gained the victory in a chariot race at the Pythian games, in the second sentence he digresses to the colonization of *Cyrene* from *Thera*, and thence to the Argonautic expedition, in which that event was predicted, and the pledge of its accomplishment received. This furnishes Pindar with what he deems the proper subject of an ode, and he relates at length in a lyric style the chief events of the Argonautic expedition. He concludes with some sentences of advice, couched in elegant language, adapted to the circumstances of *Arcesilaus* and *Cyrene*; and intercedes in a delicate and respectful manner in favour of *Damophilus*, a *Cyrenean* exile, whom the poet had lately met at *Thebes*. The odes of Pindar are written in the boldest style of lyric poetry. It follows, therefore, that they abound in rapid and sudden transitions, and daring metaphors. In almost every ode his digressions are as free as in the single instance which has been cited. A few specimens will shew the license of his metaphors. *Ætna* is described as "the nurse of snow through the entire year." *Tacitus*, indeed, in prose employs an expression scarcely less bold, when he speaks of a mountain as "faithful to the snows." In the same ode from which the former expression is taken, he advises *Hiero* to "rule his people with a just helm, and to forge his tongue on the anvil of truth." In another place he speaks of himself as "having the feeling of a whetstone on his tongue, which impels him, not against his will, to the sweet strains of song." His metaphors are often mixed, or, in the language of
Gray,

Gray, the subject and simile are united. He speaks of "adapting his voice to the Doric sandal," where the sandal is introduced merely because he had before employed the word "adapt." His simile at full length would be, As the sandal is adapted to the foot, so shall the Doric rhythm be applied to the song. Such is the style employed by Pindar, always bold, and sometimes carried to excess. Yet every ode contains striking passages, and some of almost unrivalled beauty and sublimity, to which, in their class, nothing in Horace can certainly be compared. As a single instance we may refer to the invocation to the lyre, which forms the introduction of the first Pythian ode, and has been imitated by Gray. Pindar, it is said, is obscure. This is the necessary consequence of the style which he has chosen to adopt. But his obscurity is rarely that of ambiguity. His thoughts are as well defined as they are strong; his language as explicit as it is bold. He must be read the first time with difficulty; he may be read the second time with delight and admiration. His versification has none of that extravagant variety which some modern Pindarics have affected. His ode is usually divided into strophes, antistrophes, and epodes. In the first construction, indeed, of the strophe and epode, he admits an unlimited variety in the structure of his verse; but all the strophes and antistrophes of the same ode conform to one model, and all the epodes to another.

Editions of Pindar.

Pindar was first printed by Aldus, with Callimachus, Dionysius de situ orbis, and Lycophron. Venet. 1513, 8vo.

The edition of Calliergues (Roma, 1515, 4to.) is more valued than the preceding. It contains the scholia, and is the chief basis of subsequent editions.

Cratander's edition, Basil, 1526, 8vo. taken from the former, is regarded as correct and valuable.

A splendid edition was published at Paris by Morel, 1558, 4to.

Several small editions were published by Henry and Paul Stephens, with the fragments of other lyric poets.

Erasmus Schmidt published Pindar, Witteberg, 1616, 4to.—Schmidt was a man of real learning, and has perhaps done more for the illustration of Pindar than any other individual, though his learning partakes of the diffuseness, and his illustrations of the rhetorical formality, of his age.

An edition was published (Salmurii, 1620, 4to.) by J. Benedictus, a well-known scholar, and Greek professor at Saumur. It contains much useful illustration of the difficulties of the poet.

The Oxford edition of 1697, fol. by West and Welsted, is splendid and scarce. They have chiefly followed Schmidt. The edition is respectable, but the good intentions of the editors are valued rather more highly than their learning or sagacity.

Heyne's two editions of Pindar (Gott. 1773, 4to. 2 vols.; 1798, 8vo. 3 vols.) are very valuable. The latter is much the more ample.

Heyne

Heyne is one of the editors who unite in a great degree learning, taste, and judgment, qualities which are all necessary for the proper illustration and estimate of Pindar.

D.

SELECTIONS FROM THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY

(Continued.)

The Poet's Offering.—From Macedonius the Consul.

There hang my lyre! this aged hand no more
 Shall wake the strings to rapture known before.
 Farewell ye chords! ye verse-inspiring powers!
 Accept the solace of my former hours!
 Be gone to youth's sweet instrument of song,
 For crutches only to the old belong.

All the foregoing poems are of too general a nature to require, or even admit of, much illustration. With these I shall close my present communications from the Anthology. There are, undoubtedly, many beautiful pieces of poetry in that collection which I have not attempted to translate; but I believe that very little of variety will be found in those which remain, and that I shall therefore be allowed to have completed sufficiently the plan which I proposed, of giving specimens of every distinct class of subjects which it contains.

I may, perhaps, be permitted in this place to close my communications with the translation of one of the most picturesque Idylls of Theocritus, whose works, it will be remembered, are comprehended in most of the Anthologies, as well as those of Bion and Moschus and many others of the minor poets. This poem unites all the grace and elegance of the descriptive epigram, with the advantages of a regular and extended subject.

The Cyclops.

For love no potent medicine is known,
 No true physician but the Muse alone;
 Lenient her balmy hand and sweetly sure,
 But few are they for whom she works the cure.
 This truth my gentle Nicias holds divine,
 Favour'd alike by Pæan and the Nine;
 This truth long since within his rugged breast,
 Torn with fierce passion, Polypheme confest.
 'Twas when advancing manhood first had shed
 The earliest pride of summer o'er his head,

His

His Galatea on these plains he wooed;
 But not, like other swains, the nymph pursued
 With fragrant flow'rs, or fruits, or garlands fair,
 But with hot madness and abrupt despair.
 And while his bleating flocks neglected sought
 Without a shepherd's care their fold self-taught,
 He, wandering on the sea-beat shore all day,
 Sang of his hopeless love, and pined away.
 From morning's dawn he sang till ev'ning's close;
 Fierce were the pangs that robb'd him of repose;
 The mighty Queen of love had barb'd the dart,
 And deeply fix'd it rankling in his heart.
 Then song assuaged the tortures of the mind,
 While on a rock's commanding height reclin'd,
 His eye wide stretching o'er the level main,
 Thus would he cheat the ling'ring hours of pain.
 "Fair Galatea, why a lover scorn?
 Oh, whiter than the fleece on Etria born!
 Coy, wild, and playful as the mountain roe,
 Bright as the cluster'd vine's meridian glow!
 You come when sleep has seal'd my eye in night,
 Smile on my dreams, and rouse me to delight—
 I wake—yon image flies unkind away,
 Or melts and fades before the coming day.
 I lov'd thee, maid, from those delicious hours
 When with your mother first you sought these bow'rs;
 I was the guide that led you on your way,
 And show'd you where the fairest hyacinths lay.
 I lov'd thee then, and since those days are o'er,
 Have never ceas'd to love thee and adore!
 But you, fair virgin, care not for my pain—
 I know you care not, and my pray'rs are vain.
 'Tis not this rugged front, this lowering brow,
 (For ever haggard, but more haggard now)—
 'Tis not this single eye of scorching fire
 (More scorching with the pangs of hot desire)
 Can win a female heart, or hope to move
 A virgin's young and tender breast to love.
 Yet, tho' so rude, a thousand sheep I feed,
 Bounteous in milk, and plenteous in their breed.
 A still succeeding store my churns supply,
 For ever yielding and yet never dry.
 Yet, rugged as I am, my breath can make
 The simple reed to softest music wake;
 None of my fellow swains can sing like me,
 Tuning my vocal pipe, sweet maid, to thee.
 How oft the listening hills have heard my song
 Ascending from the vale the whole night long!

O come,

O come, dear maid, to me! and thou shalt hear
 The surgy billows roar, and feel no fear,
 While safely guarded in my arms you lie,
 Safe in this cavern from th' inclement sky!
 Oh come to me! the verdant laurels wave
 With lofty cedars o'er this quiet cave.
 There amorous ivy creeps, and intertwines
 With swelling clusters of the richest vines.
 There chrystal springs, more cool than Ætna's snow,
 Gush from the hills and round my arbours flow.
 The limpid beverage from the fountain's brink
 (Worthy of Gods!) shall Galatea drink.
 —What if I seem uncouth? This spreading wood,
 When winter strews the plain and binds the flood,
 Is all my own—and through the evil days
 Our cheerful hearth with constant fires shall blaze.
 Oh, had my mother giv'n me but to glide,
 With cutting fins beneath the billowy tide,
 I then had sought thy coral cave, my fair,
 And brought the sweetest presents of the year;
 The snowy lily, from our summer-bow'rs,
 And poppy, nursed by autumn's dying hours;
 Then might I kiss thy lovely hand, and sip
 (Oh, daring thought?) the honey of thy lip.
 —Then leave, fair nymph, those caverns where you play,
 And, having left, forget your homeward way!
 Come, tend my sheep with me, or for me squeeze
 The hardening curd, and press the snow-white cheese.
 —Where are thy senses, Polypheme, oh where?
 She needs not thy complaint—she mocks thy pray'r—
 Go to thy sheep again! 'twere better bind
 Their ruin'd wattels, and keep out the wind,
 Than thus pursue with unavailing pain
 A scornful daughter of the unpitying main.
 Go to thy home, poor wretch! In yonder grove
 Are many nymphs—and some may heed thy love.
 —There are (and those among the loveliest fair)
 Who bid me tend their flocks, their revels share.
 I shunn'd their haunts, and fled from them before—
 But now grown wiser, I'll refuse no more.
 Oft have they laugh'd to see my passion burn—
 They'll laugh no longer when I home return—
 Then, haughty Galatea, shalt thou prove
 That thou hast scorn'd what gentler virgins love!"'
 —Thus sang the uncouth swain, where Ætna's brow
 Hangs awful frowning o'er the deeps below.
 Thus would he feed his love, and with the strain
 He calm'd his troubled heart, and eased his pain.

NARVA.

ACCOUNTS OF, AND EXTRACTS FROM, RARE AND
CURIOUS BOOKS.

GREEK MS. OF THE FOUR GOSPELS IN THE PUBLIC
LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

This is an ancient and very valuable Greek manuscript of the four Gospels, in the following order: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. In an account of it, in some catalogue belonging to this library made many years ago, it is described as a very ancient Greek MS., supposed to have been one of the books in the Alexandrine Library, and to have been written in the first ages of the church;—that it was given to this Library in the year 1650 by Sir John Chekely, and that it agrees remarkably with that of Henry Gouge (Dr. Henry Gouge, formerly fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge) cited in the last volume of the London Polyglot. I shall give a short description of it from my own memoranda and recollection.

This MS. is written in a small hand, far removed from the large uncial letters, and even the first deviations from those characters; it has numerous abbreviations, with accents, circumflexes, and breathings, often strangely formed and placed. These marks are sufficient to shew, that it is much more modern than any hitherto described in the Athenæum, and that the supposition raised in the catalogue was far removed from the truth. Nor is it likely that it is the same as that quoted in the London Polyglot; nor could indeed possibly be on supposing that what is asserted in the catalogue, “that Sir John Chekely presented it to this library in 1650,” and what is asserted elsewhere, be true, that the MS. cited in the London Polyglot was the property of Dr. Henry Gouge in 1657, and the property of Archbishop Usher in 1650, as Gouge’s MS. itself is said to have been. (See Marsh’s *Michaelis*, vol. iii. p. 801). The evidence, however, is clear of its having been written in the East. And as ancient MSS. of the four Gospels are rare, and this undoubtedly is very ancient, I shall proceed on my narrative without any further apology.

The vellum is very yellow and sometimes much faded, though not much wrinkled. At the beginning is the figure of an Evangelist writing, much impaired and almost defaced. There are also several tables, the κεφαλαια, and a menology, with the feasts, &c. beginning with the month of September. It is divided into sections by capital letters, in red ink. The quotations also are marked in red ink thus: “ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἐξεί” Behold a virgin shall conceive.

The

The writing is not only much abbreviated, but letters and syllables are often placed above their kindred letters and syllables thus, μαθητι^{τι}σα

η α. " α.
εθν παντ εις τ κοσμ εληλυθ .

Now as the characters and forms of the letters in Greek MSS. of the 9th to the 12th centuries, do not greatly vary, and as those of the 12th, 13th, and following centuries recede much from the elegance of the former periods, I should suppose it may be assigned rather to the latter: and from what I recollect, it has several of those marks, which in Montfaucon are made to characterize Greek MSS. of the 12th and 13th centuries. I collated a few passages in it by Wetstein, and found some varieties, but all in haste, and without noting them in a book, for I was employed, during a short stay, in examining many MSS. and on very different subjects. But enough has been said to shew that the above MS. is well entitled to the attention of the curious.

GREEK MS. OF THE OCTATEUCH IN THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

This is an ancient MS. and no less valuable than the former, containing eight books of the Old Testament.

Dr. Geddes, who printed the Prospectus of his Translation of the Old Testament at Glasgow, collated this MS. with the Alexandrine in 1786, and left in it a short account from which, when I was at Glasgow, I copied what follows: "With regard to the value of this exemplar, I cannot yet presume to appreciate it, as I have examined it only by the Alexandrine, to which indeed it has a great resemblance, even where the latter is evidently erroneous. On the other hand, it corroborates many good readings of the Alexandrian MS. and frequently supplies its deficiencies," and in his Prospectus (p. 39) he says, "while these sheets are printing I am actually employed in collating a valuable and well-preserved Octateuch belonging to the university of Glasgow, a particular account of which shall in due time be given to the public." However, this seems one of the many good designs that Dr. Geddes left unfinished, as I find no farther account of it in the pamphlets printed by him afterwards, nor do I recollect any notice of it in his Translation.

Dr. Holmes, however, in his *Preface* to the Old Testament, according to the Greek Septuagint, after mentioning the former possessor of this MS. says, that the various readings extracted from it by Canter, are subjoined to the Antwerp and Paris Polyglots, and that Canter assigned it to the 12th century. He adds, "the learned person who made the collation that I use, assigned it to the 12th century." This learned person I suspect, though I do not know, to have been Dr. Geddes.

The

The resemblance that this MS. bears to the Alexandrine, as noticed by Dr. Geddes, must be understood to relate to its matter, not to its characters and form, for they differ much from the large character of the Alexandrine, and indeed they differ somewhat from the characters of the Edinburgh Gospels: but the Edinburgh MS. and the Glasgow were written in an age that practised these varieties. There is a brief description of an Octateuch in Montfaucon (*Palæograph. Græc.* p. 58) which has its age fixed 1125. This Glasgow MS. is written on a cotton paper, is finely preserved, and was certainly written in the East.

HEBREW MS. OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND KING JAMES'S
COMMENTARY ON THE REVELATIONS, IN MARISCHAL
COLLEGE ABERDEEN.

The former is a most beautifully written Hebrew manuscript, on fine vellum, of which I read only part of the first chapter of Genesis. It has the vowel points, and was originally written with them, and is much more modern than either of those to which an allusion has been already made in the Athenæum. It is noticed by Dr. Kennicot.

The Commentary on the Book of Revelations, by James the Sixth of Scotland, the First of England, was composed by him, when he resided in Scotland. The marginal notes are in his Majesty's own hand-writing: the epistle to the whole christian Kirke militant, argument, and book, are written, I think, by his scribe.

His Majesty had promised in his 'Poetical Exercises,' published at Edinburgh, to present the reader with his Apocalypse and Psalms. His Psalms, however, are not here. But subjoined is a table "containing an historical narration of things mentioned in the Paraphrase." His Majesty studied as a *bairn* at St. Andrew's; and I may, probably, on some future occasion, say something of the books presented to that ancient university by his Majesty, and two or three books in King's-college, or university, of Aberdeen.

G. DYER.

London, December, 1808.

MEMORIE STORICHE DELLA CHIESA BOLOGNESE E SUOI
PASTORI ALL' EMINENTISS. E REVERENDISS. SIGNOR
CARD, NICOLÒ LUDOVISIO ARCIVESCOVO DI BOLOGNA
E PRENCIPE.—*Da Celso Faleoni. Can. Reg. Lat. 1649.*

In this work, which, in common with many of the Italian local histories, abounds with solid and useful information concerning the constitution, manners, and usages of the little states to which it relates, I have lately met with two or three anecdotes, delivered so much in the style of some of Boccaccio's serious tales, that I have thought them on that account worthy of being translated. I can easily imagine that most tales in the Decameron had their origin in similar circumstances, as preserved and *improved* by popular tradition. The first story occurs in the annals of Octavian Ubaldini, who filled the episcopal chair of Bologna from the year 1260 to 1295.

p. 280. "At this time were in great power the rival factions of the Lambertazzi and Gieremei, the principal families of the city for nobility, riches, and alliances. These held the state divided by perpetual tumults, as much on account of the old hatred of Guelph and Gibelline, as in consequence of an accident which happened a few years before to Boniface, the son of Jeremy Gieremei, and to Imelda, the daughter of Orlando Lambertazzi. Among the changes of public animosity, love troubled the private repose of these two fair beings; and their hearts, by a secret interchange of soft regards, were embalmed with so great a tenderness of true affection, that, equally distracted by this too pleasing martyrdom, they became incapable of rest. Under the dominion of an unhappy liberty, the one constantly languished for the sight of the other; yet that sight, so much longed for, was forbidden by distance, while more cruel laws also prohibited their nearer approach. Lines and marks were set up by order of the government, within which each of the hostile families were bound to confine themselves for the prevention of all true as well as pretended causes of vengeance. No member of the one family could transgress those boundaries and break in upon the line of the other without exposing himself to immediate death.

"But, for the lovers, desire, which was the *Cydonian Fountain** of their consolation, only added fresh incitements to their mutual ardours. Distance denied them words; but the pen revealing that which the mouth could not utter, served them as the interpreter of the heart. The flame of love, which owns no law and fears no danger, put in the young man's head that which he followed to his ruin. His affection, which had its origin in vengeance and death, pointed out to him the fatal day, and it fell out when the brothers of Imelda were keeping holiday

* The author refers to Pliny, l. 2, c. 103, for the origin of this quaint expression.

holiday in the house of the Caccianemici. With the steps of a robber, by stealth, poor Boniface sought his lady's mansion; but their appointed meeting served only to conduct him to the gates of death. Having entered her chamber, the splendour of that beauty for which he sighed struck him blind with admiration. What was then the condition of the lovers it is in vain for me to say: such vehemence of passion no man should attempt to describe who has not proved it.

"The brothers of Imelda were, in the meantime, advised of the meeting, and, animated by hatred as much as by a sense of honour and of the delicacy of their house, hastened to their sister's chamber, and there, by so sudden and unexpected an assault, cut off from the miserable lover all power of retreat. They immediately surrounded him and put him to death with poisoned weapons, in order to make it the more secure. They then took up the mangled body, bathed as it was in its own blood, and with outrageous indignity threw it into a drain behind the house. Filthy interment for an unfortunate lover! After this action they fled privately away out of the city, for fear lest public vengeance should pursue them.

"Imelda, who at their first entrance had escaped by another door of her chamber, and remained hid during the time of the butchery, hearing that the murderers were gone, and suspecting the nature of the horrible deed which they had perpetrated, returned to the fatal apartment where she expected to have found Boniface; but finding in his stead only the marks of his blood upon the floor, she traced them assiduously from the spot where he was assassinated to that where he lay, and at last discovered the body, where it had been left, still warm and palpitating. At her approach the unhappy victim breathed his last, and at the same time his wounds discharged fresh and copious streams of blood. The disconsolate fair one (ill-fated bee!) throwing herself on the corpse, applied her mouth to the wounds with which it was covered, and thus ignorantly imbibing poison together with his blood and her tears, fell lifeless by his side, ending at the same time her life and her lamentations."

The sequel of this tragedy is too long to be given in detail. Suffice it to say that Boniface and Imelda were sufficiently revenged by the miseries of a bloody civil war within the gates and throughout the estates of Bologna, and that the cruel Lambertazzi in particular expiated their crime in a perpetual exile.

MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

NOTICE OF THE ABBE' SERASSI.

PIER-ANTONIO SERASSI, one of the best deserving among the Italian literati of the last century, and one of the most celebrated biographers of his age, was born of an honest and respectable family, in Bergamo,

Bergamo, on the 17th February, 1721. He received the rudiments of instruction in his father's house, and then studied in the public schools of his native city: he afterwards repaired to Milan, where the developement of his talents was so rapid as to procure for him, when he was less than 20 years of age, the honour of being elected a fellow of the academy of *Trasformati* in that metropolis.

At that early period of his life, having returned to Bergamo, he was appointed professor of Belles Lettres in those schools in which he had received a part of his early education. He soon, however, resigned this employment, in order to indulge in those pursuits for which he felt almost an exclusive inclination, and to which he was afterwards indebted for his great reputation.

Serassi began to enjoy the fame of an original writer at an age when the generality of learned men are still in a course of tuition; for he was scarcely twenty when, in 1742, he published his "Opinion on the Native Place of Tasso," a work which gave the most unequivocal indications what the author, in his riper years, would attain, in the career that he was commencing. The immortal poet, whose birth-place constituted the subject of this inquiry, was undoubtedly born in Surrento, in the kingdom of Naples, and was the son of Bernardo Tasso, a nobleman of Bergamo, and Portia de' Rossi, a Neapolitan lady. But whether he ought to be considered as a Neapolitan or as a Bergamasque was a question which, ever since his days, had constantly occupied the Italian critics. That he should be styled a Neapolitan, was the more general opinion; and this opinion had been, in the last instance, maintained and illustrated by the Abbé Seghezzi. It was the object of Serassi, in his methodical publication, to evince that the poet, although accidentally born in Surrento, was, from his descent and from all his family connexions, to be considered as a Bergamasque. We question whether this decision is final; but it is certain that the author produced such records concerning the family of Tasso, and supported his position with such ingenuity, as to attract the admiration of his very adversary; for the Abbé Seghezzi was heard to say, "that he should think differently on the subject were he to write upon it again."

In the years 1744, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1752, and 1753, from the 23d to the 32d of his age, our author respectively published the lives, 1st, of Pietro Spino, an excellent poet and historian, of Bergamo, in the 16th century; 2dly, of Giampietro Maffei, a native also of Bergamo, and a famous missionary in the East Indies; 3dly, of Francesco Maria Molza, the famous poet of the age of Leo X.; 4thly, of the celebrated Angelo Poliziano; 5thly, of Bernardo Cappello, a Venetian orator and poet of the 16th century; 6thly, of Bernardo Tasso, the father of the immortal Torquato, and himself a classical poet of the age; and 7thly, of Dante, Petrarcha, and Bembo. Each of these lives offered some new and valuable presents to the literary world; all of them contained inedited works, original records, letters, fac similes, and historical illustrations.

In

In one of the years above mentioned (in 1749) the Abbé Serassi rendered to his native place an eminent service, in the economic department, as it might be called, of her local literature. The academy of the *Eccitanti*, in Bergamo, for want of public care and patronage, had long been indirectly annulled; when, owing to his remonstrances and exertions, it was again opened by a decree of the senate. He himself was soon appointed its perpetual secretary; but he did not long enjoy that place, for in 1754 he was invited to Rome, by his illustrious townsman, the Cardinal Alexander Furietti.

We beg leave of our readers in this place to express the indignation which we feel, whenever we hear unfair and illiberal remarks on the spirit of the clergy of Rome in respect to learning and learned men—whenever we see persons of the highest merit among that clergy represented as narrow-minded, bigotted, and enemies to human knowledge. We have an inward conviction that the contrary is the fact; and we do not hesitate to assert, that the Roman prelates (except, certainly, in regard to those articles of doctrine or discipline which may be adverse to their persuasion and interest) have always been the most zealous and enlightened patrons of learning. When we go through the chronological tables of secular princes of every description, we can hardly find one in a hundred who has patronized the sciences; whereas, not one pope, perhaps, since the revival of letters, has been entirely destitute of this merit. We are surprized if, among the vast number of persons in power under secular governments, we meet with one or two who have distinguished themselves as patrons of learned men; whilst every one, perhaps, of the ecclesiastical dignitaries in Rome has more or less partaken of this quality. We thought it necessary to offer this remark, in order to state, and then to prove, that to the discernment and liberality of Cardinal Furietti the public is, in a great measure, indebted for the excellent works which Serassi published in Rome, from the time of his arrival there.

We shall mention all these works in the order of time; and the first of them is, the "Life of Baldassarre Castiglione," together with the republication of some of his edited works, with additional original pieces, or with works until then unknown: these respectively appeared in distinct sets of volumes, from 1760 to 1766; and they could not fail of success, as they set in a still more advantageous light the character and exertions of this primitive and, in many respects, unrivalled teacher of polite manners. In the second place, we shall mention the edition of the "Poetry of Lorenzo de' Medici, the Magnificent," which appeared in 1763. In that edition Serassi, besides a great many illustrations, gave all the variations in the text of manuscripts. Thirdly, the edition of the "Poems of some ancient Tuscan Poets," which appeared in 1774. These writers were in number six, some of whom, although celebrated for other literary and for civil talents, had hitherto been scarcely suspected to have cultivated poetry.

The works, however, which have secured to Serassi an everlasting reputation,

reputation, were his masterly "Life of Torquato Tasso," published at Rome in 1785, in two 4to. volumes, with a dedication to the accomplished princess, Mary Beatrix of Este, archduchess of Austria; and the perhaps still more masterly "Life of Jacopo Mazzoni, patrician of Cesena," published in the same metropolis in 1790, in a 4to. volume, with a dedication to the then reigning pope, Pius VI. In respect to these two capital publications, we shall enter into some details.

No man of genius, perhaps, could be a better subject of a detailed biographic work than Tasso. He seemed to have come into the world for the purpose of being made the sport of nature and of fortune; his genius, his sensibility, his education, his noble birth, every thing that to the generality of men is a source of felicity, proved to him a cause of misfortune: his life, moreover, was so connected with the numerous and complicated events of his age, as to require a great many historical enquiries, apparently alien to his vicissitudes. No wonder, therefore, if all the biographic memoirs which, until then, had been published of him, were comparatively uninteresting, defective, or fabulous. To clear the subject of frivolities, and to place it in the most advantageous light was, then, the aim of Serassi. He employed twenty years upon it; first in collecting all the original records relative to his topic that might be found; and then, in giving his materials every advantage of order and style. It is, in fact, universally acknowledged, that the performance can be rivalled only by a few others of the kind in all ages and countries. And especially in respect to its style, the writers of the "Memoirs of the Fine Arts," published in Rome in 1785, justly observe, that ten or twelve books written in the same manner as the work of Serassi, would be the most simple and efficacious remedy for the corruption of taste so much complained of in academies.

Jacopo Mazzoni (the subject of the other biographic work) was a patrician of Cesena, born in 1548, and who died in 1598: he was one of the greatest literary ornaments, and by some accounted the most universal scholar of his age; he also acted an important part in the political and ecclesiastical affairs of his time; and he was already well known in literary history, by his philosophical, rhetorical, and critical works. The reigning pope, Pius VI. however, thinking that no proper justice had been done to his illustrious townsman, Mazzoni, resolved that his life, on a similar plan with that of Tasso, should be written by Serassi. Whether in this resolution the pontiff, through an excessive love for his native place, did not exceed the bounds of reasonableness, and whether Mazzoni, howsoever respectable, ought to be put in competition with Tasso in regard to historical honours, are questions foreign to our present purpose. We have noticed this circumstance only as the immediate cause of the most finished, perhaps, of our author's performances. The "Journal of Modena," then edited by the illustrious Tiraboschi, expresses the author's merit in the following manner: "Having said that this is a work of the
Abbe

Abbé Serassi, we need not mention that it is written with vast erudition, with the greatest accuracy, and with the utmost elegance. We find in it every thing that can be required to render such a work useful and interesting."

Whilst occupied with these two capital works, Serassi was far from confining to them his whole attention; for, during that interval, he wrote several works of inferior note, such as his "Treatises on the Vestals, and on the Bacchanals of the Ancients," his "*Epistolario*, or Correspondence," and a "Collection of the Epitaphs of learned Men who died in Rome." It was also in the same interval that he had projected the "Bibliotheca, or History of the Bergamasque Writers;" a work, however, which he had no time to carry into execution, and which, we apprehend, with no great success, was afterwards undertaken by others.

Ever since his removal to Rome, and, consequently, during the whole period of these latter avocations, the Abbé Serassi had filled several literary offices under government. Through the influence of his patron, Cardinal Furietti, he had first been appointed rector of the College Ceresoli, of the Bergamasque nation. He afterwards occupied several places in the Arcadian and Pontifical academies, as well as in those of the *Occulti* and *Insecondi*. Finally, through the appointment of Cardinal Spinelli, prefect of the Propaganda, he held some posts of the highest trust in that congregation.

Towards the beginning of the year 1791, at the request of his relations, he had resolved to pay a visit to his native city of Bergamo. At that epoch also, he flattered himself with a competent remuneration for his Life of Mazzoni. "But the affairs of France," said he, in a letter to the celebrated Father Affo, of Parma, dated January 29, "have of late so much engrossed his Holiness's attention, that he has not been able to attend to the usual distribution of benefices in the Christmas holidays. It is not improbable that this distribution may be made in the ensuing month of February, on the anniversary of his Holiness's coronation." Whilst, however, he was indulging in these agreeable prospects, he was seized with a periodical indisposition which, as apparently insignificant, he had always disregarded, but which, at length, set all the assistance of the medical art at defiance.

He died at Rome on the 19th February, 1791, in the 70th year of his age. With a decent funeral, performed at the expence of his relations of Bergamo, he was buried in his parish of St. Maria, in *Via lata*. In the subsequent month of April, a neat monument in marble was erected to him in that church by two of his greatest friends, the princes Rospigliosi and Odescalchi. In the inscription, the two eminent persons declared their wish to give a token of gratitude *amico benemerito*. Nor was it long before the municipal government of Bergamo ordered that a medal should be, as it actually was, struck to his honour, with the epigraph—*Propagatori patriæ Laudis*.

Pier-Antonio Serassi stood high among the Italian literati; and his name will undoubtedly pass to posterity, with a correspondent degree
of

of celebrity. Of the estimation in which he was held by his contemporaries, we have the evidence of the best periodical works, and of the greatest scholars of the time. Among the former, we shall only mention the "Literary History of Italy," and the "Collection" of Calogera. Among the latter we shall likewise cite two meritorious writers and excellent Latinists, Filippi Bonamici, and Angelo Fabroni. In the opinion of the first, Serassi was "*vir, qui tam ubi-rem ac mirificam clarissimorum virorum qui sæculo XVI floruerunt, notitiam habet, ut eum his vixisse et versari etiamnum videatur.*" In the judgment of the second, the writings of Serassi were performances "*in quibus nil nisi elegans, bene moratum, perpolitum et perfectum videre licet.*" He will be remembered to the remotest posterity in his native country, for all his meritorious labours; he will enjoy a similar reputation in foreign countries, at least for his excellent *Life of Tasso*; and we feel some satisfaction in being the first, perhaps, in this island, who have made his name adequately known.

F. D.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE DIAL.

THIS shadow on the dial's face,
That steals, from day to day,
With slow, unseen, unceasing pace,
Moments, and months, and years away;
This shadow, which in every clime,
Since light and motion first began,
Hath held its course sublime;
What is it?—Mortal man!
It is the scythe of Time.
—A shadow only to the eye,
Yet, in its calm career,
It levels all beneath the sky;
And still through each succeeding year,
Right onward with resistless power,
Its strokes shall darken every hour,
'Till nature's race be run,
And its last motion shall eclipse the sun.

Nor only o'er the dial's face,
This silent shade, from day to day,
With slow, unseen, unceasing pace,
Steals moments, months, and years away;

From

From hoary rock, and aged tree,
 From proud Palmyra's mouldering walls,
 From Ten'riffe towering o'er the sea,
 From every blade of grass, it falls:
 For O where'er a shadow sweeps,
 The scythe of Time destroys;
 And man at every footstep weeps
 O'er evanescent joys;
 Life's flowerets glittering with the dews of morn,
 Fair for a moment, then for ever shorn:
 —Ah! soon, beneath th' inevitable blow,
 I too shall lie in dust and darkness low.
 Then Time, the Conqueror, will suspend
 His scythe, a trophy, o'er my tomb,
 Whose moving shadow shall portend
 Each frail beholder's doom:
 —O'er the wide earth's illumined space,
 Though Time's triumphant flight be shewn,
 The truest index on its face
 Points from the church-yard stone.

J. M.

Sheffield, Dec. 26, 1803.

METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS AND LITERAL TRUTHS
 COMPARED AND APPRECIATED.

Written in the year 1797, upon recovering from a pleurisy, and addressed to a
 passionate and poetic Lover.

WHILE flames of love employ *your* songs,
 'Tis mine to chaunt inflamed lungs.
You sing of torments in the breast,
I, in the region of the chest;
 They both are near, but which is best?
 Deprived of breath, my pangs deny
 The consolation of a *sigh*—
 A consolation *you* enjoy.
 Each time I cough, ten thousand smarts
 Exceed the keenest of your darts.
 Do you lament your *freedom* fled;
 Behold me captive to my bed!
 You rapturous *hug* the chains you *love*,
 What can he hug, who cannot move?
You talk of fevers in the brain,
 Of pangs that thrill through every vein:
 Come look at *me*, and then complain.

Vol. V.

U

You

You boast of tenderness, and mine is such,
 I scream with pain upon the slightest touch.
 I grant some anguish you endure,
 But how extatic is your *cure*!—
 Two *bleeding hearts*, they say, have charms,
 'Tis not the case with *bleeding arms*;
 Bliss sympathetic would they know,
 If streamlets should for ever flow?
 When charming Chloe *feels your* pain,
 You instantly are well again:
 You drink in *cordials* from her eyes;
 Your bosom glows with sweet surprise;
 Your spirits mount above the skies.
 What is the cure the patient knows?
 A cure that robs him of repose;
 With Spanish flies his bosom glows!
 The mildest cordials for his ills
 Are nauseous draughts and bitter pills.
 Intestine tumults often shew
 His cure is wretchedness and woe.—
 And, when he feels his bowels move,
 'Tis not the sympathy of love.
 Thus if you grieve, lament, and sigh,
 And moan your fate, ah, well may I.

C.

 SONG,

BY MISS BETHAM.

LUCY, I think not of thy beauty,
 I praise not each peculiar grace;
 To see thee in the path of duty,
 And with that happy, smiling face,
 Conveys more pleasure to thy friend
 Than any outward charm can lend!

I see thy grateful babes caress thee,
 I mark thy wise maternal care,
 And sadly do the words, impress me,
 The magic words that thou art fair.
 I wonder that a tongue is found
 To utter the unfeeling sound.

For art thou not above such praises?
 And is this all that they can see?
 Poor is the joy such flattery raises,
 And oh! how much unworthy thee!
 Unworthy one whose heart can feel
 The voice of truth, the warmth of zeal!

Oh,

Oh, Lucy ! thou art snatch'd from folly,
 Become too tender to be vain ;
 The world, it makes me melancholy,
 The world would lure thee back again,
 And it would cost me many sighs
 To see it win so bright a prize.

Though passing apprehensions move me,
 I know thou hast a noble heart ;
 But, Lucy, I so truly love thee,
 So much admire thee as thou art,
 That but the shadow of a fear,
 Wakes in my breast a pang sincere.

SONNET.

AH ! scenes remote !—grey rock, and mouldering tower,
 And ivy-darken'd dell and shadowy stream :
 Ye still are present in the musing hour,
 And still ye mingle with my waking dream :
 Not that Remembrance culls her charmed theme
 From thymy bank or honey-suckle bower :
 Not that the may-thorn branch with pearly gleam
 Bow'd its white blossoms in the sunny shower :
 A wanderer once did roam those vallies green,
 Whose nymph-like step amid the river-dale
 Would lingering pause : more lovely then the scene ;
 Her sweeter breath was blended with the gale :—
 I bid your distant haunts in mem'ry hail,
 And sigh to muse the pleasures that have been !

C. A. ELTON.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

The second number of Tresham's Gallery of Pictures is announced for publication in the course of the present month.

The Rev. Robert Bland, author of the Popular Tales of Edwy and Elgiva, and Sir Everard, has in the press a Poetical Romance, in ten Cantos, entitled, The Four Slaves of Cythera.

Mr. William Richards has issued proposals for publishing by subscription a History of Lynn, civil, ecclesiastical, commercial, biographical, political, and military, from its foundation to the present time.

Mr. Taylor, the platonist, is engaged in writing a work on Infinitesimals in Mathematics, in which it is said he has made some important discoveries.

The Rev. J. Girdlestone is about to publish by subscription, All the Odes of Pindar, translated into English Verse, with Notes, explanatory and critical, from the original Greek.

Mr. C. Macartney is preparing for publication a set of Rules for ascertaining the

the situation and relations, in the living Body, of the principal Blood-vessels, Nerves, &c. concerned in Surgical Operations; to be illustrated by plates.

Dr. Jameson, of Cheltenham, has announced a second edition of his *Treatise on the Waters of that place, and Bilious diseases*.

We understand that Dr. Kentish, of Bristol, has formed an establishment where the Faculty may order heat, or cold, in any proportion to be applied to a Patient, either locally or generally. He has also published an *Essay on Warm and Vapour Baths; with Hints for a new Mode of applying Heat and Cold for the cure of Diseases and the preservation of Health*. Illustrated by cases.

Mr. P. Thompson, of Boston, will publish in the course of the ensuing Spring a small volume, embellished with engravings, entitled, *The Stranger's Guide through Boston and its Environs; or, an Attempt at a Topographical, Historical, and Descriptive Account of that Part of Lincolnshire*.

Mr. Edward Davies, the author of *Celtic Researches*, is printing a continuation of that work.

The Spring Course of Lectures at ST. THOMAS'S and GUY'S HOSPITALS will commence as usual, the 1st of February, viz. at St. THOMAS'S, *Anatomy and the Operation of Surgery*, by Mr. CLINE and Mr. COOPER.—*Principles and Practice of Surgery*, by Mr. COOPER.

At GUY'S, *Practice of Medicine*, by Dr. BABINGTON and Dr. CURRY.—*Chemistry*, by Dr. BABINGTON, Dr. MARCET, and Mr. ALLEN. *Experimental Philosophy*, by Mr. ALLEN.—*Theory of Medicine and Materia Medica*, by Dr. CURRY and Dr. CHOLMELEY.—*Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children*, by Dr. HAIGHTON.—*Physiology, or Laws of the Animal Economy*, by Dr. HAIGHTON.—*Occasional Clinical Lectures on Select Medical Cases*, by Dr. BABINGTON, Dr. CURRY, and Dr. MARCET.—*Structure and Diseases of the Teeth*, by Mr. FOX.

Dr. Stock, of Bristol, has undertaken to write a *Life of Dr. Beddoes*, with the approbation of his family and friends.

The long expected Reports of the Preventive Medical Institution at Bristol, have been left, by the late Dr. Beddoes, in some degree of forwardness. They will be completed and published as soon as possible, by Mr. King and Dr. Stock. The former of these gentlemen has been surgeon to the institution from its first commencement, and the latter has been connected with it since the month of March, 1804.

Mr. Jerningham proposes shortly to publish a work under the title of *The Alexandrian School; or, a Narrative of the Character and Writings of the first Christian Professors in that City, with Observations on the Influence they still maintain over the Established Church*.

The Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, of York, will shortly publish *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the late Rev. W. Wood, F.L.S. and Minister of the Protestant Dissenting Chapel at Mill Hill, in Leeds*. To which will be subjoined, an Address delivered at his interment, on Tuesday, April 5, and a Sermon on occasion of his Death, preached on Sunday, April 10th.

We have been favoured with the following anecdotes of the harmonious art of bell-ringing in this kingdom.

Change composition and change ringing were introduced and brought to practice here about 200 years ago, and the first long peal, containing 5040 changes, was rung at the church of St. Mary le Bow, Cheapside, about the year 1690. The rule for calculating changes is known to be, to multiply the product of the former number by the succeeding one for a new product: thus, 3 bells have six changes; and 4 bells have $6 \times 4 = 24$; and 5 bells have $24 \times 5 = 120$, and so on. The increase is so rapid, that 12 bells admit of 479,001,600 changes.

There are in England twelve peals of 12 bells, viz. St. Saviour's, London; Christ-church, Spitalfields, do.; St. Michael's, Cornhill, do.; St. Giles's, Cripplegate, do.; St. Martin's in the Fields, do.; St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, do.; St. Bride's, Fleet-street, do.; St. Peter's Mancroft, Norwich; St. Martin's, Birmingham; St. Chad's, Shrewsbury; St. Mary's, Cambridge; St. John's, Cirencester;

Cirencester: of these, the heaviest tenor weighs 51½ cwt. and the lightest, 28 cwt.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 50 peals of ten bells, 360 of eight bells, and 600 of six bells.

The largest single bells are Oxford Great Tom, 7 ton wt.; Exeter Great Tom, 6 ton; London St. Paul's clock bell, 5 ton; Lincoln Great Tom, nearly 5 ton; Canterbury cathedral, 70 cwt.; Gloucester College clock bell, 65 cwt. The heaviest ring of tuneable bells is the ten-bell peal at Exeter, of which the tenor weighs 67 cwt. and is 6 feet in diameter at the skirt.

At the great bell-foundry in Whitechapel, London, there have been cast since the year 1738, 292 peals of musical church bells, of which were 110 of eight bells, 12 of ten; and 4 of twelve. The tenor of the heaviest peal is 53 cwt. 21 lb. belonging to the ring of ten bells in one of the richly-carved Gothic towers in York Minster, cast in 1765. To this peal the society of London College Youths paid a visit some time since, and rung the first long peal on them, containing 5,183 harmonious changes of Grandsire Caters, which was composed and conducted by Mr. Thomas Blakemore, stationer and bookseller, Piccadilly, London, and was brought round in 3 hours and 47 minutes. The St. Peter's youths at York rung the next long peal on them, composed of 5,003 melodious changes of Grandsire Caters, in 3 hours and 37 minutes, conducted by Mr. Richard Beeforth, patten-maker, of that city. Then the St. Michael's youths of Ashton-under-line, paid a friendly visit to the ancient city of York, and performed the last long peal on the Minster bells, containing 5,021 harmonious changes of Grandsire Caters, which was completed in 3 hours and 27 minutes; composed and conducted by Mr. Thomas Ogden, warehouseman, of Ashton-under-Line.

The society of St. Peter's Youths Change Ringers, at Sheffield, in Yorkshire, in honour of Lord Milton's annual birth day, May 4th, 1808, ascended their St. Peter's Gothick church tower, and in 3 hours and 59 minutes they completely brought round a complete peal of 5,400 changes, in that intricate and harmonious method of Oxford-Treble-Bob-Royal, on the grand deep-toned peal of ten bells, cast by Messrs. Thomas Mars and Son, bell-founders, Whitechapel, London, in the key of C. Weight of the tenor, 41 cwt. 5 lbs.

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

AGRICULTURE.

The Farmer's Magazine; a periodical work, exclusively devoted to Agriculture and Rural Affairs. No. 36, price 2s. 6d.

A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Leicester, with Observations on the Means of its Improvement, published by order of the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement. By William Pitt, of Wolverhampton. To which is annexed, a Survey of the County of Rutland. By Richard Parkinson. 8vo, price 14s. boards.

General View of the Agriculture of Berkshire. Drawn up for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement. By William Mavor, LL.D. 8vo, price 18s. boards.

ANTIQUITIES.

Londina Illustrata; or, a Collection of Plates, consisting of Engravings from original Paintings and Drawings, and Fac-simile Copies of scarce Prints; displaying the State of the British Metropolis, from the Reign of Elizabeth to the Revolution. Number II, with four plates, price 8s.

A History of Brecknockshire; containing the Antiquities, Sepulchral Monuments and Inscriptions, Natural Curiosities, Variation of Soil, Stratification and Mineralogy, a copious List of rare and other Plants, and the Genealogy and
Aims

Arms of the principal Families blazoned; together with the Names of the Patrons and Incumbents of all the Parishes and Livings in that County. By Theophilus Jones, Deputy Registrar, &c. Vol. 2, royal 4to. 4l. 14s. 6d. bds.

BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of Count Grammont. By Count A. Hamilton. With Notes and Illustrations. A new edition, embellished with forty Portraits of the Persons mentioned in the work. 3 vols. crown 8vo. 2l. 5s. boards.

Public Characters for 1809, 10. Vol. 10, 8vo. 12s. boards.

EDUCATION.

Lectures of a Preceptor to his Pupils, in a Series of Tales, delivered for the Instruction and Admonition of Youth of both Sexes: rendered from the German of the celebrated Adlerjung. By William Wernington. 12mo. price 3s. 6d. boards.

Mentorian Lectures on Sacred and Moral Subjects; adapted to the Comprehension of Juvenile Readers. To which are added, some original Miscellaneous Poems. By Ann Murry, author of *Mentoria*. 12mo. 4s. 6d. boards.

HISTORY.

The History of Barbadoes, from the first Discovery of the Island in the Year 1605, till the Accession of Lord Seaforth, 1801. By John Poyce. 4to. 1l. 11s. 6d. boards.

A History of France, from the Reign of Clovis to the Peace of Campo Formio, 1798; after the Manner of the History of England, in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to his Son. 12mo. 5s. 6d. boards.

LAW.

A Practical Treatise on Pleading, with a Collection of Practical Precedents. By Chitty. 2 vols. royal 8vo. 2l. 2s. boards.

Jurisdiction of the Court Leet, exemplified in the Articles which the Jury or Inquest for the King in that Court is charged and sworn, and by Law enjoined to inquire of and present; together with approved Precedents. By J. Riston, Esq. of Gray's Inn. 8vo. 5s. boards.

The Law and Practice of Patents for Inventions. In Two Parts. By Wm. Hands. 8vo. 5s. boards.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

The Vaccine Scourge, No. 2; containing a New Song, called, The Blacksmith's Progress, or I and my Partner Joe, sung at a certain Institution in Salisbury Court. 2s. 6d. sewed.

The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal; exhibiting a concise View of the latest and most important Discoveries in Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy. No. 17, price 3s.

The Lowan Medical Review, from January to October, 1808. Vol. I. 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

Reports on the Effects of a peculiar Regimen on Schirrous Tumours and Cancerous Ulcers. By William Lambe, M.D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. 8vo. 5s. boards.

MISCELLANIES.

The History and Delineation of the Horse. The Engravings executed exclusively by Mr. John Scott. Part 1, royal 4to. 6s. sewed.

The Brazil Pilot; or, a Description of the Coast of Brzsil: translated from the Portuguese of Mangel Pimentel, principal Hydrographer to his Majesty, John the Fifth, of Portugal. To which are added, Charts of some of its most considerable Ports, from MSS. never before published. Illustrated by fifteen Cuts. 4to. 1l. 1s. boards.

A Treatise on the Game of Chess; containing a regular System of Attack and Defence: also numerous Rules and Examples, teaching the most approved Method

Method of playing Pawns at the end of a Game. To which is added, a Selection of critical and remarkable Situations won or drawn by scientific Moves. By J. H. Sarraut, Professor of Chess. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s.

The Repository of Arts, Literature, Commerce, Fashions, Politics, &c. No. 1, price 4s.

The Second Volume of the New Edition of the Harleian Miscellany; with a Supplement and Notes. By Thomas Park, F.S.A. Royal 4to. 3l. 3s. bds.

The Wedding among the Flowers, with Engravings. By one of the Authors of Original Poems. Price 1s.

City Scenes; or, a Peep into London for Good Children: with upwards of One Hundred Engravings. By the Authors of Rural Scenes. 2s. 6d. half bound.

The Tarantula; or, the Dance of Fools: a Serio Comic, Mock Heroic, Satirical Work. By the Author of the Rising Sun. Embellished with two very humorous Caricatures. 2 vols. foolscap, 12s. boards.

The Towers of Lothian; or, the Banks of Carron: a Scottish Legend. 4 vols. 20s. boards.

NOVELS.

The Hour of Two: a Novel, in 3 volumes. 12mo. 15s. By Augusta Maria Woodthorpe.

The Towers of Lothian; or, the Banks of Carron: a Scottish Legend. By the Author of the Two Pilgrims. 4 vols. 12mo. boards, 20s.

City Nobility; or, a Summer at Margate and Ramsgate. 3 vols. 15s.

POETRY.

The Minor Minstrel; or, Poetical Pieces, chiefly Familiar and Descriptive. By W. Holloway. Foolscap 8vo. 4s. 6d. boards.

The Garland; or, Poems on Various Subjects. By S. Sayer. 12mo. 5s. boards.

Poems on Various Subjects. By Henry Richard Wood, Esq. Foolscap 8vo. 5s. boards.

The Battle of Flodden Field; a Poem of the Sixteenth Century. By Henry Weber. 8vo. 15s.

THEOLOGY.

Familiar Discourses upon the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Supper, and the Litany. By a Dignitary of the Church. 8vo. 6s. boards.

Practical and Familiar Sermons; designed for Parochial and Domestic Instruction. By the Rev. Edward Cooper, Rector of Hamstall Redware, in the County of Stafford, Chaplain to the Right Hon. Earl of Courtown, and late Fellow of Allsouls College, Oxford. 12mo. boards, 5s.

Sunday Reflections. By the Author of Thoughts on Affectation. 8vo. 9s. boards.

TRAVELS.

Caledonian Sketches; or, a Tour through Scotland in 1807. To which is prefixed, an Explanatory Address to the Public upon a recent Trial. 4to. boards, 2l. 2s.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

		Wind.	Pressure.		Temp.		Evap.	Rain, &c
			max.	min.	max.	min.		
N. Moon <i>a. b.</i>	Dec. 17	N	29.65	29.45	38°	24°		
<i>c.</i>	18	N	29.65	29.62	31	26		
	19	N	29.71	29.68	32	25		
	20	N	29.99	29.71	30	14		
<i>d.</i>	21	SW	29.99	29.20	34	20		
	22	Var.	29.42	29.20	33	27		
<i>e.</i>	23	E	29.45	29.39	31	28		
1st Qr.	24	Var.	29.61	29.56	32	25		
<i>f.</i>	25	NW	29.55	29.50	30	21		
<i>g.</i>	26	E	29.55	29.49	33	23		
<i>a.</i>	27	E	29.60	29.55	36	34	.34	.14
<i>a.</i>	28	E	29.55	29.52	38	36		
	29	E	29.52	29.49	42	37	4	.15
	30	E	29.60	29.50	44	38	5	
<i>h.</i>	31	E	29.62	29.60	38	36	1	.12
Full M. 1809. Jan. 1		E	29.60	29.49	39	38		
<i>i.</i>	2	NE	29.49	29.35	40	30		
	3	NE	29.65	29.49	30	28		
<i>k.</i>	4	E	29.70	29.65	33	30		
<i>k.</i>	5	SE	29.65	29.56	38	32	8	.19
<i>k.</i>	6	SE	29.56	29.43	48	36	6	.24
<i>k.</i>	7	SE	29.43	28.80	45	39	5	.16
<i>k.</i>	8	S	29.37	28.50	46	37	4	.23
Last Qr. <i>l.</i>	9	S	29.25	29.20	44	36	1	.39
<i>h.</i>	10	NW	29.38	29.16	46	34	4	2
<i>m.</i>	11	W	29.49	29.38	47	36	1	
	12	N		29.49	40	30		
	13	N	29.82		37	28		
	14		29.82	29.77	34	29		
<i>n.</i>	15	NE	30.08	29.77	29	26	.12	.20?
			29.61	29.43	37.26	30.10	T. 0.85	1.84
			M. 29.52		33.68			

N. B. The Notations comprised in each line relate to a period of 24 hours, reckoned from 9 a. m. on the day of the date. A dash denotes that the period so marked is to form a part of that allotted to the next observation.

REMARKS.

a. Misty.

b. About 2 p. m. a heavy squall from N. W. with rain, sleet, and snow, giving strong sparks from the rod; the night proved very stormy.

c. Clear; brisk wind; snow at intervals, and pretty much of it in the night. Wild geese migrate in large flocks.

d. Rime on the trees. *Minimum* of Temp. at 9 a. m.

e. Snow at intervals for three days past, and much this night. In the day it fell very sparingly, and regularly cristallised in *stars*.

f. Small rain, freezing on the ground.

g. Clear morning; sleet in the night.

h. Cloudy for three days past.

i. Snowy morning after a wet evening.

k. Cloudy and windy weather. On the 6th a meteor of moderate size, passing Eastward.

l. Hoar frost: Cirro stratus: a Nimbus in the S. These successive indications were followed by steady rain.

m. A fine day. The whole Level, bordering on the Lea from Stratford upwards is now, by the continued rains and swelling of the river, several feet under water.

n. Snow at intervals. The inundation has subsided.

RESULTS.

Prevailing Winds Easterly.

Mean height of Barometer - 29.52 In.

Thermometer 33.68°

Evaporation - - - - - 0.85 In.

Snow and Rain - - - - - 1.84 In.

Character cloudy and frosty, with frequent rain and snow. The Barometer has departed little from the Mean, save in one great depression, the crisis of which occurred about 2 p. m. the 8th; and though the subsequent elevation went on at the rate of more than 0.1 inch per hour, the wind was quite moderate. It is very rare to observe so steady a wind from the S.E. as that which preceded this fall of the Barometer.

L. H.

Plaistow, 23d of 1st mo. 1809.

RESULTS FOR DECEMBER.

Mean Pressure Barom. 29.644—Highest 30.22—Lowest 28.90.—Range 1.32.

Mean Temperature - 37°06.—Highest 51° —Lowest 19° —Range 32°.

Spaces described by the Barometer, 8.80 inches.—Number of Changes 13.

Rain, &c. this Month, 1.790 inches.—Number of Wet Days, 9.—Total Rain this Year, 27.095 inches.

My Correspondent at Wilsden, Yorkshire, makes the quantity of Rain, for this Month, 4.570 Inches; the greatest part of it fell before the 8th.—It is rather singular that not one fourth of the quantity fell at Manchester in the same period.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
5	1	7	2	0	6	8	1

Total Number of Observations, 30.—Number of Stormy Days, 4.

THOS. HANSON

Manchester Lying-in Hospital, Jan. 3, 1809.

VOL. V.

X

INTELLIGENCE

RELATIVE TO ARTS MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. Benjamin Cook, of Birmingham, for methods of making barrels for muskets, and other fire arms. Dated March 1808.

Mr. Cook states three methods, in which barrels for fire arms, may be made more expeditiously than in the common way.

In the first method, pieces of iron or steel, are taken off considerably shorter and thicker than the intended barrels: they are forged round, and then drilled by a lathe or other engine, so as to form a bore of the size required; at the end of which a piece is left undrilled to serve as the breech; or the whole is drilled out, and the breech is formed by a solid screw: they are then heated and drawn out, either between fluted rollers, or through holes of different sizes, in the manner in which wire is manufactured, until they are of the length desired.

In the second method, thick, short barrels are prepared, by welding flat pieces of iron over a mandrel or beak iron. Which are then drawn out to the proper length by fluted rollers, or through holes, as in the first mode.

In the third method, flat circular plates of iron or other fit metal, about one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, are forced through holes, the first of which is but little less than the area of the plate, and the rest successively smaller, till the size required for the barrels is obtained. In this last method the plate will pass from the flat to the conoidal shape, and from that to the cylindrical form, as the holes through which it is forced decrease in size. The patentee asserts, that the sides of the plates will encrease in thickness as they are drawn out into the tubular form.

In some cases he directs that a bar be kept in each barrel, as it is rolled or drawn forward, especially where it is required to have a bore of an octangular or other polygonal form: the bars may be also formed with ribs, and the barrels being fluted inside by receiving their impression, may be afterwards twisted for rifles.

The patentee states also that cannon may be made in the same method, and that the barrels so formed, will be much stronger, and less liable to burst than those made in the common way, and of course may be of considerable less weight, with equal strength, and he thinks that barrels made in this mode, of even one third less weight, will be equally strong as common muskets; as the process compresses the metal in the most effectual manner, and the frequent annealing the barrels receive, so toughens them, that they become of the nature of wire, and they besides, receive in this manner a more equable thickness, than is possible to give by mere welding and forging, which he asserts always leave barrels thicker in some parts than others.

A musket barrel may be formed from the carcass, in this way, to its full length in about two minutes.

Ramrods for fire-arms Mr. Cook forms in a similar manner, by drawing them out as wire to the proper size, or by passing them through rollers fluted with cavities of gradually reduced diameters. The heads of these ramrods are made, either by not drawing the whole length through the rollers or holes, and thereby leaving a thicker part for this purpose at the end; or by screwing, rivetting, or brazing to them, heads formed separately, after the rods are drawn out and cut into proper lengths. They are after this hardened and tempered to the elasticity requisite. Ramrods thus made have the advantage of requiring no filing

filing or grinding, as they leave the plates or rollers, perfectly smooth, and equably shaped.

The method of drawing out tubes of metal into greater length, by passing them through holes or fluted rollers, was first practised on lead, to make water pipes; and a patent was obtained for it several years ago. Mr. Cook's modes of adopting the same process to form iron barrels, are however very ingenious, and we believe quite new in the application. The two first methods may be employed very advantageously to form iron pipes for other purposes, besides for musket barrels. Pipes for conveying coal gas, to illuminate factories and other buildings, made in this way, we should suppose would soon find a ready sale, from the extension this method of producing light is likely to have: iron pipes, besides, are frequently wanted for chemical purposes, and they might be also used well, to form handles for fire-shovels, hearth-brushes, saucepans, and other articles used near the fire, we also know of a most extensive use to which they might be applied, if they can be made as cheap as it is imagined they can be: of which Mr. Cook shall be informed, if he thinks it worth while to desire it.

The third method does not seem to us so proper for the purpose proposed, as the others, and we are inclined to think Mr. Cook is mistaken, in thinking the barrels thus formed, would become thicker as they were drawn out: while in the conoidal shape, they would certainly be thicker towards the mouth than at the bottom: but this would be reduced as they were drawn into the cylindrical form. The point however is not very material. Though this third method would not be so fit to form pipes, yet it would be extremely proper for making iron crucibles, pans, pots, saucepans, and a variety of other utensils in a strong and expeditious manner.

The musket barrels formed on Mr. Cook's mode, we imagine would not have the great encrease of strength he supposes to arise from the manner of making them: wire drawing gives strength longitudinally but not transversely, as it does not encrease the lateral adhesion of the component parts; we form this idea as well from practice as from theory, for we have seen iron bolts for ships, formed in the same way, by passing them through fluted rollers, which were extremely tough and strong, but on hard driving, almost always split at the head into a number of fibres, as if they had been formed of a bundle of wires welded together. This was no detriment to the bolts, but rather proved their strength in the direction wanted, the case would however be different with musket barrels, which have to resist an internal force expanding in all directions, therefore require to have the lateral adhesion of the parts as strong as possible. While we point out a probable defect, we are happy in having it in our power to mention an easy remedy: for if on trial, barrels so formed, should be liable to split longitudinally; by twisting them so as to give the fibres a spiral direction, which before were longitudinal, they may be made to receive strength annularly, and the strength may be encreased in this direction as required by adding to the twist, so as to give a greater number of spirals in a given length of barrel.

Patent of Mr. W. Bell of Birmingham, for an improvement, for making pipes, or pumps for conducting water and other liquids.

Mr. Bell's specification commences with a just statement of the advantages, which earthen ware pipes have over those made of wood, or metal; wooden pipes are liable to rot, and injure the water which pass through them, by the putridity which they communicate to it, and metal pipes, particularly lead and copper, render it very unwholesome, if not poisonous, by the solution of their oxides; and also make it unfit for washing linen, and other purposes: but pipes of earthen ware (if the glazing is managed properly) preserve the water perfectly sweet and clean. To form a proper connection with these facts, and Mr. Bell's invention, he should have added, that earthen pipes on the other

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Patent of Mr. Benjamin Cook, of Birmingham, for methods of making barrels for muskets, and other fire arms. Dated March 1808.

Mr. Cook states three methods, in which barrels for fire arms, may be made more expeditiously than in the common way.

In the first method, pieces of iron or steel, are taken off considerably shorter and thicker than the intended barrels: they are forged round, and then drilled by a lathe or other engine, so as to form a bore of the size required; at the end of which a piece is left undrilled to serve as the breech; or the whole is drilled out, and the breech is formed by a solid screw: they are then heated and drawn out, either between fluted rollers, or through holes of different sizes, in the manner in which wire is manufactured, until they are of the length desired.

In the second method, thick, short barrels are prepared, by welding flat pieces of iron over a mandrel or beak iron. Which are then drawn out to the proper length by fluted rollers, or through holes, as in the first mode.

In the third method, flat circular plates of iron or other fit metal, about one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, are forced through holes, the first of which is but little less than the area of the plate, and the rest successively smaller, till the size required for the barrels is obtained. In this last method the plate will pass from the flat to the conoidal shape, and from that to the cylindrical form, as the holes through which it is forced decrease in size. The patentee asserts, that the sides of the plates will encrease in thickness as they are drawn out into the tubular form.

In some cases he directs that a bar be kept in each barrel, as it is rolled or drawn forward, especially where it is required to have a bore of an octangular or other polygonal form: the bars may be also formed with ribs, and the barrels being fluted inside by receiving their impression, may be afterwards twisted for rifles.

The patentee states also that cannon may be made in the same method, and that the barrels so formed, will be much stronger, and less liable to burst than those made in the common way, and of course may be of considerable less weight, with equal strength, and he thinks that barrels made in this mode, of even one third less weight, will be equally strong as common muskets; as the process compresses the metal in the most effectual manner, and the frequent annealing the barrels receive, so toughens them, that they become of the nature of wire, and they besides, receive in this manner a more equable thickness, than is possible to give by mere welding and forging, which he asserts always leave barrels thicker in some parts than others.

A musket-barrel may be formed from the carcass, in this way, to its full length in about two minutes.

Ramrods for fire-arms Mr. Cook forms in a similar manner, by drawing them out as wire to the proper size, or by passing them through rollers fluted with cavities of gradually reduced diameters. The heads of these ramrods are made, either by not drawing the whole length through the rollers or holes, and thereby leaving a thicker part for this purpose at the end; or by screwing, rivetting, or brazing to them, heads formed separately, after the rods are drawn out and cut into proper lengths. They are after this hardened and tempered to the elasticity requisite. Ramrods thus made have the advantage of requiring no
filing

filing or grinding, as they leave the plates or rollers, perfectly smooth, and equably shaped.

The method of drawing out tubes of metal into greater length, by passing them through holes or fluted rollers, was first practised on lead, to make water pipes; and a patent was obtained for it several years ago. Mr. Cook's modes of adopting the same process to form iron barrels, are however very ingenious, and we believe quite new in the application. The two first methods may be employed very advantageously to form iron pipes for other purposes, besides for musket barrels. Pipes for conveying coal gas, to illuminate factories and other buildings, made in this way, we should suppose would soon find a ready sale, from the extension this method of producing light is likely to have: iron pipes, besides, are frequently wanted for chemical purposes, and they might be also used well, to form handles for fire-shovels, hearth-brushes, saucepans, and other articles used near the fire, we also know of a most extensive use to which they might be applied, if they can be made as cheap as it is imagined they can be: of which Mr. Cook shall be informed, if he thinks it worth while to desire it.

The third method does not seem to us so proper for the purpose proposed, as the others, and we are inclined to think Mr. Cook is mistaken, in thinking the barrels thus formed, would become thicker as they were drawn out: while in the conoidal shape, they would certainly be thicker towards the mouth than at the bottom: but this would be reduced as they were drawn into the cylindrical form. The point however is not very material. Though this third method would not be so fit to form pipes, yet it would be extremely proper for making iron crucibles, pans, pots, saucepans, and a variety of other utensils in a strong and expeditious manner.

The musket barrels formed on Mr. Cook's mode, we imagine would not have the great encrease of strength he supposes to arise from the manner of making them: wire drawing gives strength longitudinally but not transversely, as it does not encrease the lateral adhesion of the component parts; we form this idea as well from practice as from theory, for we have seen iron bolts for ships, formed in the same way, by passing them through fluted rollers, which were extremely tough and strong, but on hard driving, almost always split at the head into a number of fibres, as if they had been formed of a bundle of wires welded together. This was no detriment to the bolts, but rather proved their strength in the direction wanted, the case would however be different with musket barrels, which have to resist an internal force expanding in all directions, therefore require to have the lateral adhesion of the parts as strong as possible. While we point out a probable defect, we are happy in having it in our power to mention an easy remedy: for if on trial, barrels so formed, should be liable to split longitudinally; by twisting them so as to give the fibres a spiral direction, which before were longitudinal, they may be made to receive strength annularly, and the strength may be encreased in this direction as required by adding to the twist, so as to give a greater number of spirals in a given length of barrel.

Patent of Mr. W. Bell of Birmingham, for an improvement, for making pipes, or pumps for conducting water and other liquids.

Mr. Bell's specification commences with a just statement of the advantages, which earthen ware pipes have over those made of wood, or metal; wooden pipes are liable to rot, and injure the water which pass through them, by the putridity which they communicate to it, and metal pipes, particularly lead and copper, render it very unwholesome, if not poisonous, by the solution of their oxides; and also make it unfit for washing linen, and other purposes: but pipes of earthen ware (if the glazing is managed properly) preserve the water perfectly sweet and clean. To form a proper connection with these facts, and Mr. Bell's invention, he should have added, that earthen pipes on the other

other hand are defective from their great brittleness, which makes them liable to burst from great internal pressure of water, as well to be broken by external percussion. This defect it is the object of the patentee to remedy, which he does by enclosing the pipes of pottery, or porcelain, in cases or tubes of cast iron; cases, or tubes may also be made to contain them of wood, but these of cast iron are best for strength and durability. He also proposes to use pipes of the compounded metals, which are not so easily corroded as lead, copper, and iron, enclosed in similar cases to those described. The patentee has not stated the advantage of this plan, but we suppose it to consist in the facility which it gives of making pipes of those compound and more expensive metals, very thin, without danger of bursting; and of course at an expense much less, than they would cost if made sufficiently strong of the compound metal alone.

The patentee also proposes the use of thin pipes of wood, enclosed in the same manner, after being prepared for durability by boiling, or burning, or charring it, which will prevent it from decaying and from harbouring insects.

The earthen tubes are to be formed so that the end of one shall fit within that of another, and the joints are to be made water or air tight by cement.

It is necessary to be particular in the glazing of earthen pipes, as the common lead glazing is liable to the action of any acid contained in the water, as well as lead. Pipes for supplying Plymouth with water were laid several years ago, which were made of the Bristol stone ware, that is glazed by the vapour of salt, and this kind we think would be the best for purposes proposed by the patentee. His method will do very well for pumps, but we imagine it would be rather too expensive for pipes to convey water from any great distance. This is the only objection to them, for certainly in other respects they would be preferable to the pipes hitherto used, but we fear this will be an insuperable obstacle to their introduction, especially as cast iron pipes, though they may render the water unfit for washing, give it no unwholesome property that can injure health, but on the contrary may be serviceable to it, and they can certainly be sold cheaper than the pipes formed of earthen ware, covered with cast iron tubes, proposed by the patentee.

We wish however that the patentee may be able to afford his pipes so much cheaper than those of lead, as to supercede their use, being convinced, that many complaints which are attributed to other causes, arise from the use of water that has passed through lead pipes, or has lain in leaden cisterns; particularly those complaints which physicians attribute to debility.

Account of an improvement on the common still invented by Mr. J. Acton of Ipswich.

Phil. Jour. No. 95.

Mr. Acton having used a still containing about 9 gallons, for distilling common water, essential oils, and water impregnated with them, with a tub which holds about 36 gallons; found it very inconvenient to change the water of the tub as often as it became hot, which it very soon did, after commencing distillation; he therefore contrived the following addition to the refrigerating part of the apparatus, which he has found to succeed so well, that he can now distil for any length of time without heating the water in the warm-tub above one degree, so that it never requires to be changed; the heat passes entirely into the additional condenser, and when it exceeds 150 degrees, goes off by evaporation.

The additional condenser consists of a trough three feet long, twelve inches deep, and fifteen inches wide, with a pewter pipe passing through the middle of it horizontally, about two inches in diameter, at the largest end, next the still; and gradually tapering to about three quarters of an inch at the smallest end, which communicates with the top of the worm,

The great simplicity of this contrivance, and its utility, renders a fair trial of it in other stills very advisable; the small heat which went to the water in the worm tub shews, that the additional condenser performed nearly the whole of the condensation, and that therefore it is extremely probable, that a second pipe and trough added to the first would perform the whole condensation effectually, without using any worm, and would thus enable distillers to dispense with this expensive and troublesome part of the apparatus.

A Description of the Apparatus by which the experiment on the decomposition of Potash by Iron, has been repeated at the Royal Institution.

Phil. Mag. No. 31, p. 276.

The Apparatus consists of a common gun barrel curved with one large, and one small curvature, and passed through a portable furnace, to which the pipe of a pair of bellows is admitted through an aperture at its side. The curved part of the pipe hangs downwards, to one of its ends an iron tube of about the capacity of two inches, having a ground stopper, is adapted, for containing the potash, which flows out of it, through a very small hole at the lower end. To the other extremity of the bent barrel, a tube of safety is fitted containing a little mercury or naphtha to prevent communication with the outer air.

In the experiment, iron turnings, put into the barrel so as to fill a part of the lower portion of its curve, are heated to whiteness; the potash is then slowly fused, and flows on the turnings, where it is decomposed; and its base is found condensed near the other extremity of the barrel.

The proportions from which the best results have been obtained, are about 2 parts of iron turnings to 1½ parts of potash.

In order to the compleat success of the experiment, the whole apparatus should be perfectly dry, clean, and impervious to air; the turnings free from oxidation, and the potash very dry; which last is affected by heating nearly to redness. Pure or crystallised potash in its usual state of dryness contains water enough to occasion the failure of the experiment. The tube containing the potash should be surrounded with ice, until the iron turnings are white hot; and that part of the barrel where the metal of the potash sublimes, should also be kept cool during the whole process. The barrel should be carefully luted; and it is proper to examine the lute after it has been exposed to a red heat, in order to repair any cracks which the fire may have occasioned.

At the commencement of the decomposition, Hydrogen gas is evolved, and continues to come over during the whole of the process. Towards the end of the experiment a very intense heat should be continued for some minutes, to drive off the last portions of the metal of potash, which adhere to the iron turnings with great obstinacy.

An examination of the Notion entertained by Seamen, that the weakness or looseness of a Vessel's frame makes her sail faster. By Captain Malcolm Cowan.

Naval Chron. No. 120.

Captain Cowan observes, that the generality of seamen have an idea that the strength of ships is an impediment to their sailing, which makes them give too ready an assent to any objection that may be made to the improvements in Naval architecture, which have been contrived for strengthening ships, and consequently adding to their safety; not considering how many are interested in the continuation of ancient errors and absurdities, and enriched by the existing abuses in the construction and equipment of ships. This is a subject in which Seamen are more particularly interested, from being liable to be the greatest sufferers by any mistake relative to it, and which therefore demands their peculiar attention.

Captain Cowan supposes the notion to be erroneous, that the part of ships immersed in the water can twist or bend in any way to effect their sailing, as they are too firmly bound by the decks and knees, to admit of any sufficient motion

motion in this way for this effect; he however admits the possibility of this twisting and bending, in order to investigate the consequences of it on the sailing, and to shew that they would be nearly the reverse of what is commonly supposed.

If a vessel should bend upwards or downwards, she would make more resistance to the water, by opposing a greater surface to it transversely; a hollow or concave keel is well known to be one of the greatest impediments to a vessel's sailing: and if the vessel on the contrary is sunk lower in the middle, it is evident the transverse section of her immersed part, must be proportionally increased in depth, along with her resistance to forward motion, which depends on it.

If the bend or twist should be sideways, the transverse section would be increased in breadth, and the resistance become proportionably greater; besides this, it would make a resistance diagonally to the proper course, which would operate to make the vessel steer in the direction of the bend at the head. These reasons Captain Cowan justly supposes are conclusive, but they are rendered mere apparent by drawings, which he has made of ships twisted as seamen suppose they may be: a single inspection of the roughest sketch of this kind is sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of the idea, (to any but the obstinately ignorant,) that such twisting can be an advantage.

Captain Cowan attributes the effect which takes place on the sailing of vessels by cutting through the gunnels, (which is practised sometimes in small privateers,) entirely to the loosening of the *upper works*, and thereby giving more play to the masts, and sails. It often happens, that by slacking the rigging, a vessel's sailing is improved; and it is usual in cutters to slack the runners and tackles (which support the mast) when in chase, in order to give the mast as much play or motion as possible; in large, and particularly in lofty ships, the rolling motion causes the sides to bend over somewhat from their natural position, and this causes a material alteration in the position of the masts and sails, besides giving them more play, as the length of the masts multiplies the alteration of place at the sails in proportion to their distance from the center of motion.

By cutting through a vessel's gunnels the upper works may be made very loose; but as the deck must keep every part beneath it under water from bending or twisting so as to effect the sailing, it must be entirely from the effect which the looseness of the upper works has on the masts and sails, that any alteration in sailing can arise.

Captain Cowan observes in concluding, that ships sometimes sail faster when new and firm, than when they get old and weak; that the best sailing trim of a vessel must depend entirely on the draught of water, the stowage of the hold, and the position and trim of the masts, sails, and rigging, as no improvement in the sailing of a ship can be produced by her bending or twisting beneath the surface of the water, however weak or loose she may be.

It is easy to demonstrate that when any part of the frame of a ship loosens, so as to be capable of motion on the neighbouring parts, from that moment the vessel begins to decay; and it is all a matter of chance whether her destruction should be gradual, by a progressive loosening and wearing of the whole frame, or whether the partial motion of a single timber may not start a plank, and send her and her crew, and cargo, at once to the bottom. Captain Cowan has therefore done a singular service to seamen in pointing out their errors on this subject, by shewing, that it is the part of the vessel above water which affects the sailing by its action on the masts and yards, and not the alteration of the shape of the immersed part, as was falsely imagined.

The effect which the giving play or motion to the masts, has on the sailing, we are convinced, arises entirely from the greater spring or elasticity which they are then capable of exercising. It has been long since proved, that the springs added to wheel carriages enable a given force to produce a greater effect in moving them forward, and prevent impediments on the road from diminishing their velocity of motion in a very great degree, if not entirely. The

waves

waves on the sea may be considered as forming obstructions to the velocity of a ship, in a similar manner to that which obstacles on a road do to the motion of a carriage; and it may easily be conceived, that the introduction of the principle of the spring, in making the motion of the ship more uniform, must be equally beneficial.

But surely the dangerous expedient of damaging the vessel, by the process of loosening it, as it is called, cannot be absolutely necessary to give this spring; or granting that it aids somewhat in this way, yet certainly many better methods can be devised, and certainly none worse, and it is evidently a disgrace to the ingenuity of seamen, not to be able to contrive a better expedient, than the very barbarous one which they have adopted. Springs have been added to the blocks for the sheets and halyards, in several American vessels, according to the contrivance of Mr. Hopkinson, and have been found of great utility: there can be no doubt but that the slings of the yards might be also attached to springs, and that the effect would not only be beneficial to the sailing of the ship, but also in preventing the sails from being rent by sudden squalls. The wind varies likewise, from the intensity of its action on the sail for momentary intervals at other times, as well as in squalls; and the action of the ship in pitching and rolling, tends also to make the operation of the wind on the sail very variable, encreasing it as the mast rolls towards the wind, and diminishing it as it rolls from it. Springs at the slings and at the halyard blocks, would equalize this action of the wind more effectually than cutting the gunnels, or loosening the rigging, so as to endanger the masts being brought by the board. All unprejudiced persons will at least grant that this, and every other safe expedient, should be tried for the purpose, before the very dangerous methods abovementioned should be attempted.

It has been proved by experimental philosophers, that a pyramidal or conoidal body of wood, forced into the water, will react in the same manner as a spring; this principle may be also adopted to give the action of a spring to the masts, without injuring the ship, for its hull may be so shaped, that both in rolling and pitching, the resistance may gradually encrease, as it inclines from the vertical position, and that the reaction may be in the same proportion: the wedge shape which many ships have vertically at the head and stern, is well calculated for this purpose, and if the sides were made so as to project as they rose, instead of inclining inwards, or tumbling home, as it is called, the vessel would have the best form for this purpose, and one which would be very good in other respects also. Much depends upon ballasting the ship, in making the operation of its immersed part, have the operation of a spring on the masts; for if the ballast is too low, this effect will be injured by its rendering, as it were, the spring too stiff; and if on the contrary, the center of gravity is placed too high, the spring will be too weak, besides risking the upsetting of the ship.

As a proof that the stiffness of the framing of a ship, can in nowise affect the sailing, we have to state the example of the ship *Economy*, described in a former number, which is so stiffened by her internal framing, that she can neither twist or bend in any direction; and yet she has sailed in all her voyages much better than most merchant vessels on a wood sheathing, and has frequently outsailed coppered ships.

The interest which, Captain Cowan remarks, many take in the continuation of ancient errors in the construction and equipment of ships, is a melancholy consideration, when the fate of the nation depends so much on its naval superiority: especially as some, who favour those errors, unfortunately have the power, from their stations, to continue them; which power they now exert, not only in discouraging and rejecting proposed improvements, but even in persecuting those who bring them forward.

We have before stated in the account of the ship *Economy*, an instance of the system that influences those at the head of the naval department, in the rejection of improvements; we are sorry that the instance of persecution on a similar account, which we have to state, should be that of Captain Cowan himself. The Captain respectfully remonstrated to the navy board, for the impediments and delays (and the various other modes of rendering an improvement

provement of no avail, which cannot be openly rejected) which have been used, in preventing the introduction in ships of war, of his patent method of reefing sails, and other improvements respecting them, to the extent they deserved, notwithstanding their being approved of universally by all the naval captains who have tried them fairly; and for this just remonstrance, the captain has been officially censured by the board of admiralty. It would open too large a discussion at present, to enter on the subject of the legal powers of this board; but certainly it most materially behoves all naval officers to do so, and to have it decided, whether they can justly receive a *censure*, or other punishment, from any body subordinate to the legislature, *without a court-martial, or any legal trial* whatsoever, to investigate whether such *censure* would be deserved, or would merely be the result of arbitrary, and perhaps assumed power.

The fate of Captain Cartier, should open the eyes of naval officers, to what they have to trust, is it possible that they are unacquainted with it? the public at large we hope will soon be informed of this disgraceful business, and those who were the authors of the injustice he has experienced, meet that abhorrence they deserve.

We trust our readers will excuse the length of this note, on account of the national importance of the subject. If in its own nature, improvement in all arts, particularly in those which contribute to the defence of the state, is not thought of sufficiently obvious use and importance to demand attention, we have to urge in its favour a proof of the most tremendous kind: let the enemies to improvement seriously consider to what the French chiefly owe their rapid conquests on the continent; every *improvement* in the art of war, and in every other art which can assist it, has been encouraged, rewarded, and put in practice by them, and those who obstinately rejected improvement, and discouraged and persecuted its advocates, and adhered pertinaciously to old systems, have uniformly fallen before their arms with a most disgraceful facility.

Fas est et ab hoste doceri.

As yet the seas are our own, but if the same system which has ruined the continent, is pursued in our naval departments, and if all improvement be obstinately rejected there, while our inveterate enemies eagerly, and diligently encourage it in their service, no gift of prophecy is required to foretell what must in time be the event. No idea can be more false, than that the construction and management of ships, are brought to the full perfection of which they are capable. We laugh at the Chinese, for holding this opinion with regard to their junks, but in us it is much more ridiculous, for a wise policy prevents foreign commerce to that nation, to whom it is worth nothing, or worse, though to us it is every thing. Art is so far from being exhausted on this subject, that it is no exaggeration to say, that it is yet completely within its limits to diminish the dangers of the sea to navigators, fully one half of what they are at present. And in no country in the world could men be found more capable of making improvements in those arts, than in this; but as yet they meet only with discouragement, loss, and *censure*.

"Let those that stand take heed lest they fall," the system which has been so successful at land to our enemies, may prove equally so to them at sea, when their rulers have leisure to bend their energies to nautical improvement, if this is not counteracted by equal vigilance, activity, and attention to improvement in our naval service. If this country is to escape the general wreck, as we trust it will, it must arise from our learning wisdom from the fate of other nations, and carefully avoiding their errors; and we should ever hold in remembrance, that the kingdoms of Europe have fallen by adhering blindly to old systems, and rejecting the aid of art; while the French have risen to their present preeminence, by encouraging and rewarding every art and science, which can assist their arms.

OBITUARY OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

DR. JAMES ANDERSON.

Erat Homo ingeniosus, acutus, acer, et qui plurimum et satis haberet et fellis, nec candoris minus.—PLIN. EPIST.

JAMES ANDERSON was born about the year 1739, at Hermiston, a village about six miles from Edinburgh, of parents who succeeded their forefathers for several generations in cultivating the same land. Nothing remarkable is known of them: they were a family of respectable farmers; and our author may be said to have inhaled with his first breath, that spirit of agricultural knowledge for which he became so distinguished.

In his boyish years he formed an intimacy, which remained uninterrupted till his death, with his kinsman and namesake, the present James Anderson, M.D. Physician General at Madras: born in the same village, they went to school together, learnt the same task, fought each other's battles, and joined in the same amusements; this early association produced a similarity in their future pursuits, the one being no less eminent in India than the other has been in Europe, for a patriotic life and exertions for the benefit of mankind in general. They kept up a constant correspondence, and communicated to each other their various productions and discoveries.

Having been deprived of both his parents while yet very young, it was the wish of his guardian that he should occupy the paternal farm when old enough to undertake such a charge; and as much learning was not thought necessary for a farmer, young Anderson was discouraged by his friends from prosecuting his studies beyond a common school education; but that decision and firmness which were throughout his life the most conspicuous features of his character, now began to appear, and he displayed a resolution to judge and act for himself. He informs us,* that having read Home's Essay on Agriculture, and finding that he could not understand the reasoning for want of chemical knowledge, he immediately resolved to attend Cullen's lectures on that science. Being very young, and unaided by the countenance of any friend who could give him advice or introduce him to the world, he waited on Dr. Cullen, and explained his views and intentions. The Doctor, considering it as a boyish whim, which might lead him away from his necessary pursuits, at first endeavoured to dissuade him from the undertaking; but finding that our youth had fully reflected on the subject, and adopted his resolution with a fixed determination to persevere in it, he assented to the design; and as the penetration of that celebrated man soon discovered the capacity and steadiness of his young pupil's mind, he not only encouraged his present object, but became his sincere friend, carefully directed his future studies, "listened with condescension to the arguments that were dictated by youth and inexperience, and patiently removed those difficulties that perplexed him." Thus began a friendship and intimacy between them, which never ceased during the life of that eminent Professor.

With the assistance of such a patron, and with the natural energies of his own understanding, it is not to be wondered at that he made rapid advances, not only in chemistry but also in other branches of learning, which, as it were, grew out of this his first academical study; for the various branches of science are so connected with each other, that, to a mind constituted like his, the attainment of information on one constantly induce the desire of prosecuting others: and this takes place in an eminent degree at the university of Edinburgh,

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* Bee, vol. i. p. 56.

burgh, where the great attention and abilities of the Professors, combined with the moderateness of the expence, have for many years afforded remarkable facilities and encouragement to the student.

At the same time he did not neglect the duties of his farm, of which he took the management upon himself about the age of fifteen, assisted by four older sisters; and he employed himself in the exercise of his profession and his studies with so much assiduity for several years, that he barely allowed sufficient time for the repose required by nature.

About this time Dr. Cullen delivered a course of lectures on agriculture, in a private manner, to a few of his friends and favourite students, of which Anderson was the only person who took notes. Many years afterwards a copy of these notes was surreptitiously obtained from him, and, much to his astonishment, advertised for publication as Cullen's Lectures on Agriculture. Dr. Anderson felt so much for his late friend's reputation on the prospect of his boyish notes being published as a complete set of lectures, that his friends never observed him suffer more uneasiness or vexation on any other occasion; and he exerted himself so strenuously in representing to the public the unavoidable faultiness of the intended publication, and the fraudulent circumstances attending it, that the mercenary promoters of it were constrained to abandon the design.*

Among the first things he did upon his farm, was to introduce for the first time the small two-horse plough, now in universal use over the greater part of Scotland, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where the land is cultivated to a degree of perfection almost incredible. In effecting this improvement he found considerable difficulty in overcoming the prejudices of his servants.

His friends soon perceiving that his ardour in the pursuit of literary knowledge was not to be controuled, suggested a medical profession as the most advisable for him to follow; but to this he took a dislike, and could never be reconciled to it: he therefore determined to prosecute his original line of life. After having occupied Hermiston for a few years, he quitted it as a place that did not possess a sufficient field for his enterprising mind, and took a long lease of a large farm in the wilds of Aberdeenshire, consisting of about 1300 acres of land almost in a state of nature. This vast undertaking was entered upon before he was of age, the execution of the lease having been deferred till that period arrived.

In the midst of the difficulties he had to contend with in bringing this tract into cultivation, which were very great, arising chiefly from the badness or total want of roads, the remote distance from markets, and the precariousness of the climate, he began his career as an author with his essays on planting, &c. first printed in the year 1771, in the *Edinburgh Weekly Magazine*, under the signature of Agricola, and again published separately in 1777. The first edition of his *Essays on Agriculture*, *Observations on National Industry*, and several others of his early writings were composed during a residence of more than 20 years at Monkshill, the name of the above-mentioned farm.

In 1768, at the age of 29, our author married Miss Seton, of Mounie, a descendant of the ancient and noble house of Winton, who brought him thirteen children: by this marriage the estate of Mounie, in Aberdeenshire, came into his possession, and still remains in the family.

His merits as an author having become generally known, and his abilities as a practical farmer being acknowledged, his acquaintance and correspondence began to be courted by men of letters throughout the kingdom, and his society sought by persons of the first respectability in his own neighbourhood. In the year 1780 the honorary degrees of A.M. and LL.D. were conferred upon him by the University of Aberdeen, not only without solicitation on his part, but before any communication took place with him on the subject.

In 1783, having previously arranged matters for the conducting of his farm,

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* See his opinions on this transaction in his *Recreations*, vol. ii. p. 232.

he removed to the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, principally, we believe, with a view to the education of his encreasing family, and influenced, no doubt, by a desire to live where he could enjoy more of literary society than was to be had in so remote a part of the country; and to this end no place could be more conducive than the northern metropolis.

Previous to his departure from Aberdeenshire, he was actively employed in promoting measures for alleviating the distresses of the poorer classes in that county, owing to the failure of the crop of grain in 1782; and by his great exertions in exciting the attention of the neighbouring gentlemen to the state of the county on that trying occasion, we have reason to think that he was the principal means of averting the calamities of severe famine from that part of the kingdom.

About the same year he printed and circulated among his friends a proposal for establishing the Northern British Fisheries. This tract was never published, but the attention of Government being excited to the subject by it, he was applied to by the Treasury to undertake a survey of the Western Coast of Scotland, for the purpose of obtaining information on this important subject. This public-spirited enquiry he undertook, and accomplished, in 1784, having a revenue-cutter appointed to convey him round the coast; thus devoting his time and abilities to the public, much to the detriment of his own private affairs; and we are well assured he never received one shilling of remuneration from Government for this meritorious service, although the Ministers expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with his performance of it;* and it was even with great difficulty, and after many applications, that he obtained the reimbursement of his actual necessary expences incurred in the service.

In 1788 he was deprived of his wife, a woman endowed with most of the excellencies which exalt the female character, and render it the chief source of comfort and happiness to man: to elegance of person were added an excellent and well-cultivated understanding, and an affectionate and honourable disposition. To expatiate further on the virtues of this admirable woman would be foreign to our purpose; those of our readers who knew her will allow that what we have said is far short of her real merits.

It will readily be supposed that the loss of such a woman would inflict a severe and lasting wound on Dr. Anderson's spirits; and though he strove to bear it with manly fortitude, he never completely recovered its effects, but was ever afterwards occasionally subject to a melancholy recollection of past times, having the "eye big with the latent tear."

About this time he was employed in his researches on the subject of sheep, and the improvement of wool, in concert with Sir John Sinclair; his opinions thereupon delivered to the Highland Society, are before the public.

We next find him engaged in preparing for the publication of the Bee. This was a project he had long contemplated, namely, a weekly periodical work, designed for the dissemination of useful knowledge, which by its cheapness should be calculated for all ranks of people, while sufficient attention was paid to its various literary departments to render it respectable in the highest circles. His name was now so highly established, that the encouragement given by the public to this performance was wonderful, and nothing but great mismanagement in conducting the commercial part of the work, for which, like most persons of similar habits, he was ill adapted, could have caused it to fail in being a very profitable concern to him.

His own writings form a conspicuous part of this book; some of them will be seen under the name of Senex, Timothy Hairbrain, Alcibiades, and the greater part of the matter without signature. It is painful to observe how seldom the genius to conceive and instruct is united with sufficient perseverance to execute. The Doctor takes an affecting leave of his readers at the end of the 18th vol. finding it impossible for him to contend longer with the difficulties
he

* See Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the State of the British Fisheries, 11th May, 1785.

he experienced in conducting it; and principally those of getting in the subscription money. During the progress of this work, he opened a correspondence with many eminent persons who were distinguished as literary and public-spirited characters abroad and at home: among these we may mention General Washington, with whom he carried on an interesting correspondence, and Mr. Johnes, the elegant biographer of Froissart, &c. with whose intimate friendship he was honoured till the day of his death.

In the course of this publication a circumstance happened that affords us an opportunity of admiring the steady independence of his spirit, and that firmness of conduct which conscious rectitude alone could inspire. At the time that the baneful effects of French revolutionary principles had perverted the senses of most classes of people, the Scottish metropolis was not the least conspicuous for its violence in the cause of mistaken freedom. At length Government considered it necessary to interfere in repressing the dissemination of these destructive doctrines: prosecutions had already been commenced against several of the leading zealots, when our publisher received a summons to appear before the Sheriff, who demanded of him to give up the name of the author of the "Political Progress of Great Britain," a series of essays that had appeared in the Bee. This he peremptorily refused to do, requesting that he might be considered as the author himself. No one, however, could suspect him to be the writer of these papers, as his opinions were well known to be of an opposite tendency to those inculcated therein. The Sheriff desired him to consider of the matter, and cautioned him against the evil consequence of persisting in a refusal to disclose the real author. He was summoned a second and a third time; but steadily adhered to his first answer, and was permitted to withdraw. At length all his people in the printing and Bee offices were called upon; he accompanied them to the Court, and, in the presence of the magistrates, addressed them, saying, "My lads, you are my servants, and bound to keep your master's secrets; I therefore enjoin you, on no account to discover who is the author of the Political Progress of Great Britain, and I will hold you harmless for so doing." They all adhered to his directions, and so great was the respect in which he was held, that the magistrates, though frustrated in this cavalier manner, refrained from taking any step against him.

In the mean while Mr. C. the real author of these essays, thought it most prudent to retire from the risk of prosecution to America; but before his departure, for what reason was best known to himself, he waited on the magistrates and deposed, that he himself was not the author; that he knew who was; but that motives of delicacy and gratitude prevented him from divulging his name. This insidious declaration produced the effect for which it was intended; for it being well known that Lord Gardenstone, from whose country residence the papers were dated, had lavished many kindnesses on this unworthy man, under the mistaken opinion of his being a literary character of great merit, and also that his Lordship was a warm friend of Dr. Anderson, and a great patronizer of the Bee, it was concluded that the allusion could be intended for none other than him.

Immediately on hearing of this base proceeding, Dr. Anderson, determined that his friend's reputation should not suffer by the impression of such a falsehood going abroad, went and declared that Mr. C. was the sole author of the papers in question, and that he was certain Lord Gardenstone, so far from having any concern in writing them, never had so much as seen them till published in the Bee.

It is but justice to the deceased to say, that the only part of these papers of a seditious cast had been struck out by him, and Mr. C. went to the printer's in his absence and prevailed on them to insert the passage, contrary to Dr. Anderson's directions, whose opinions of the value of our government as it exists, and of the danger of the then prevailing revolutionary doctrines were such, that he never would have consented to admit them into his publication if he had considered them at all of a dangerous tendency.

The greater number of his sons having left Scotland, and as little remained in it to excite any other than melancholy feelings, he removed to the vicinity of London

London about the year 1797. Being no stranger here among literary men, he found great satisfaction in their society.

Prevailed on by the entreaty of his friends, he once more engaged in the service of the public, and produced in April, 1799, the first number of his *Recreations*, a miscellaneous monthly publication, having for its principal objects agriculture and natural history. Although this work contains a number of communications from others, yet the greater part of it is written by himself. It met with the greatest encouragement from the public; but complaining of the irregularity of his printers and booksellers as being intolerable, he dropt it at the end of the sixth vol.

He now began to relish ease and quiet. Having been always fond of horticulture, his garden now more than ever became a source of amusement, and employed a large portion of his time: yet still unwilling to withdraw from the service of mankind, he had it in contemplation to go to the continent to obtain facts relating to agriculture and civil polity, particularly in the Low Countries; having in view a Digest of the System of Legislation, and of the causes of the highly flourishing state of agriculture in that part of Europe; but this was prevented by the relentless dominion and tyranny of France.

During the publication of his *Recreations*, he wrote and printed separately his correspondence with General Washington, and a calm investigation on the scarcity of grain. The 37th number of his *Recreations* is his last publication, in March, 1802, after which he consigned himself to quiet retirement, at a time when he foresaw the decline of his own powers approaching; these were hastened to decay by being over-worked. He died on the 15th Oct. last, aged 69, one-half of which time was devoted to the benefit of his fellow creatures.

He had engaged a second time in matrimony with a worthy lady in 1801. Both parties being in the autumn of life, this contract seemed intended solely for the purpose it fully served, namely, that of promoting their mutual comforts. In the decline of life, those services and attentions are requisite which are not to be obtained from menial hands: it came to his lot to stand in need of such assistance; and for its faithful administration his friends will doubtless be ever grateful to his surviving widow.

As a practical farmer, it is acknowledged by all who knew him, that he not only understood how to turn the modes of culture usually followed by others to the greatest advantage, by judiciously selecting them and applying them according to the circumstances of the case, but also that he had powerful resources within his own mind in the invention of new practices, many of which, and of those followed in distant countries, he introduced with the greatest success. Of the benefits arising from his example, the people in the neighbourhood of his farm are still highly sensible; and many of them own, that a great proportion of the agricultural improvements, so conspicuous in that part of the country, originated in him. Failings of a nature which too often accompany genius, however, deprived him of most of the benefits of his labours. He was deficient in that plodding perseverance which was necessary to mature the works he had begun; and he often neglected one object to adopt another. But above all, his utter negligence of pecuniary matters brought him into difficulties which embittered the best of his days; for to those affairs he could never be induced by any present necessity, or prospect of future gain, to pay common attention; and he was consequently always suffering great losses through his own inattention and the imposition of others.

Of his industry and abilities, the best account we can give is, to refer to his own writings, a list of which we subjoin. Various as the subjects are, their tendency seems only one, that of making mankind better and happier. In his political tracts he pays less attention to the objects of power for which Governments usually contend, than to the improvement of society; and he deprecates the aggrandisement of the state at the expence of justice and morality.

In his style, it will be observed, he attends more to perspicuity and force than to elegance or grammatical correctness. His language flows with natural ease, and never fails to convey his meaning without the least obscurity or ambiguity,

guity, though it frequently abounds with provincial idioms, prolix sentences, over charged with relatives and tautology; yet the clearness of the sense, and the unconstrained simplicity of the diction, beguile the reader and lead him to pass over the faults without noticing them. That these faults proceeded more from carelessness than from any deficiency in grammatical knowledge, is evident from his writings on language and grammar.

Impatient of interference, he rarely admitted of advice, but prosecuted his labours by himself. Of a lively fancy, he was warm in his friendships, and warm, sometimes bitter, in his resentments; but, if the ardour of his sentiments occasionally led him into error, his own candour soon corrected it; and when he thought he had received an injury, he made a maxim of avoiding to mention the author of it, lest his resentment should lead him into unjust accusations. The sense he entertained of the general meanness of avaricious characters, caused him to hold in rather too great contempt those who devote the whole of their attention to the improvement of their fortunes.

In his younger days he was handsome in his person, of middle stature, and robust constitution. Extremely moderate in his living, the country exercise animated his countenance with the glow of health; but the overstrained exertion of his mental powers afterwards impaired his health, ultimately wasted his faculties, and brought on the premature effects of old age.

Many instances of inventive powers appear in his works: we shall here only notice a mode of draining swampy grounds by tapping, first invented by him, and published in 1776 in his *Essays on Agriculture*. Mr. Elckington having discovered the same method twenty years afterwards, a reward of 1000*l.* was voted to him by Parliament for that invention.

In the knowledge of the fine arts he bore a respectable rank, as also appears by his writings, one of the most remarkable of which is an *Essay on Grecian and Gothic Architecture, &c.*

He had a fine taste for gardening and rural scenery. An early example of this appeared in the laying out of the grounds about his residence, wherein he combined elegance with utility; a thing till of late seldom thought of in the contrivance of farm homesteads, especially in the north of Scotland.

He had, as might be supposed from the general tenor of his pursuits, a particular turn for natural philosophy, or the investigation of physical causes and effects. As an example of his reasoning on this head, we may point out a paper in the first edit. of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, published in July 1773, before the return of Cook from his first voyage, wherein he predicts the result of one of that navigator's enquiries, by pointing out from what was known of the trade-winds and monsoons, that there could not exist an extensive tract of land besides those already known in any other part of the southern hemisphere than that wherein New Holland was afterwards found to be situated.

Of Dr. Anderson's numerous family only five sons have survived him, three of whom are settled in this metropolis, and two in India, and one daughter, already a widow, with five children. She was married in 1800 to the late Mr. Benjamin Outram, of Derbyshire, who died in 1805, in the prime of his life—a man of uncommon worth and talents, whose works as an engineer will remain lasting testimonies of his great and inventive genius.

Books written and published by Dr. Anderson.

In the year

1776. A Practical Treatise on Chimnies; containing directions for constructing them in all cases so as to draw well, and for removing smoke in houses. 12mo. London, 3d edition, published in 1783.—N. B. In this little treatise was first explained the principles on which the patent Bath Stove was afterwards constructed.

*1776. Free Thoughts on the American Contest; a Tract. Edin. 8vo.

*1777. Miscellaneous Observations on planting and training Timber Trees. By Agricola. Edin. 8vo. first printed in the *Edinburgh Weekly Amusement* in 1771, and supposed to be his earliest production.

1777.

1777. *Observations on the Means of exciting a Spirit of National Industry.* Edin. 4to.
- *1777. *An Inquiry into the Nature of the Corn Laws, with a View to the new Corn Bill proposed for Scotland; a Tract.* 8vo.
1777. *Essays relating to Agriculture and Rural Affairs.* 8vo. 5th edition in 1800. 3 vols.
- *1779. *An Enquiry into the Causes that have hitherto retarded the Advancement of Agriculture in Europe, with Hints for removing the Circumstances that have chiefly obstructed its Progress; a Tract.* Elliott. 4to.
- *1782. *The Interest of Great Britain with regard to her American Colonies considered.* Cadell, 8vo.
- *1783. *The true Interest of Great Britain considered; or, a Proposal for establishing the Northern British Fisheries.* 12mo.
1785. *An Account of the present State of the Hebrides and Western Coasts of Scotland, being the Substance of a Report to the Lords of the Treasury.* Edin. 8vo.
1789. *Observations on Slavery, particularly with a view to its Effects on the British Colonies in the West Indies.* Manchester, 4to.
1790. *Papers drawn up by him and Sir John Sinclair in reference to a Report of a Committee of the Highland Society on Shetland Wool.* 8vo. Creech, &c.
- 1791 to 1794. *The Bee; consisting of Essays, Philosophical, Philological, and Miscellaneous.* 18 vols. Edin. 8vo.
1792. *Observations on the Effects of the Coal Duty; a Tract.* Edin. 8vo.
- *1793. *Thoughts on the Privileges and Power of Juries, with Observations on the present State of the Country with regard to Credit; a Tract.* 8vo. Edin.
- *1793. *Remarks on the Poor Laws in Scotland; a Tract.* 4to. Edin.
1794. *A Practical Treatise on Peat Moss, in two Essays.* 8vo. Robinsons.
- *1794. *A General View of the Agriculture and Rural Economy of the County of Aberdeen, with Observations on the Means of its Improvement, chiefly drawn up for the Board of Agriculture, in two parts.* 8vo. Edin.
1794. *An Account of the different Kinds of Sheep found in the Russian Dominions, &c. by Dr. Pallas, with five Appendixes by Dr. Anderson.* 8vo. Edin.
- *1795. *On an Universal Character, in two Letters to Edward Home, Esq.; a Tract.* Edin.
1797. *A practical Treatise on draining Bogs and swampy Grounds, with Cursory Remarks on the Originality of Elkington's Mode of Draining.* Robinson, 8vo.
- 1799 to 1802. *Recreations in Agriculture, Natural History, and Miscellaneous Literature.* 6 vols. 8vo. Longman and Co.
1800. *Selections from his own Correspondence with General Washington; a Tract.* 8vo. London.
1801. *A calm Investigation of the Circumstances that have led to the present Scarcity of Grain in Britain, suggesting the Means of alleviating that Evil, and of preventing the Recurrence of such a Calamity in future; a Tract.* 8vo. London.
1803. *A Description of a patent Hothouse, which operates chiefly by the heat of the sun; and other subjects.* London, 8vo.

The following are also of his composition:

- An Account of the ancient Monuments and Fortifications in the Highlands of Scotland, read in the Society of Antiquaries.* 1777 & 1780.
- On the Antiquity of Woollen Manufactures in England.* *Gentleman's Mag.* and other papers in that work.
- A Letter to J. Burnett, Esq. on the present State of Aberdeenshire in regard to Provisions.* 1783.

A Letter

A Letter to Henry Laurens, Esq. during his Confinement in the Tower Pub. Adv. 6 Dec. 1781.

Remarks on the Petition to Parliament, by the Schoolmasters in Scotland, for an augmentation to their salaries.

Several articles for the Encyclop. Brit. 1st vol. Edin. among which are, under the heads, Dictionary, winds and monsoons, Language, sound.

He contributed numerous essays, under a variety of signatures, in the early part of the Edin. Weekly Mag, the principal of which were, Agricola, Timoleon, Germanicus, Cimon, Scoto Britannus, E. Aberdeen, Henry Plain, Impartial, a Scot.

He reviewed the subject of agriculture for the Monthly Review for several years.

We understand he has left behind him several unpublished manuscripts, one in particular, An Address to the People of Scotland: this was intended to be the last thing he should ever publish: there are only 17 pages of this work written, which are on the subject of the poor laws.

N.B. Those marked * are out of print.

ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF THE LATE MR. JOHN HOME.

John Home was descended of a respectable, and formerly illustrious, family. He was born in the vicinity of Ancrum, in Roxburghshire, in 1724, and received the first rudiments of education at the parochial school, where Dr. Buchan, author of Domestic Medicine, was the companion of his studies.

It was Mr. Home's inclination, and the desire of his parents, that he should enter the church. He, therefore, attended the philosophical and theological classes of the university of Edinburgh for several years. But his studies were for a while suspended by the public commotions of the year 1745. On the approach of the insurgents, the citizens of Edinburgh assembled, formed themselves into an association for the support of their sovereign, and the defence of their city. Mr. Home was one of about twenty students of the university who offered their services as volunteers, to act against the common enemy. But intimidated by the number of their opponents, or averse to the hardships of a military life, the college company soon disbanded. Mr. Home, however, retained his arms, and marched with a detachment of the royal army to Falkirk; where, in the battle fought in its neighbourhood, in which the rebels vanquished the king's troops, he was taken prisoner, and confined for some time in the castle of Doune. From this place of captivity he effected his escape, and the battle of Culloden having blasted all the hopes of the Pretender's adherents, tranquillity and order were soon restored. Mr. Home resumed his studies, and was licensed to preach the gospel in 1747.

Not long after, Home visited England, for it appears that he was introduced to Collins, the poet, at Winchester, by a Mr. Barrow, who had been his fellow student at the university. Collins addressed to him his Ode on the Superstition of the Highlanders, considered as the subject of Poetry, composed in 1749, but not published till many years after his death. It is evident that Home at this period had exhibited some poetical powers. In the first stanza, Collins delivers a prediction, which was soon after fulfilled:—

"Home, thou return'st from Thames, whose Naiads long
Have seen thee lingering with a fond delay
Midst those soft friends, whose hearts some future day
Shall melt perhaps to hear thy tragic song."

About the year 1750, he was settled minister of the parish of Athelstaneford, in East Lothian, and was the immediate successor of Robert Blair, author of "The Grave."

Accustomed

Accustomed to the bustle of a city, and the society of men of letters, Mr. Home found himself rather disagreeably situated, in an obscure village, where he had no opportunity of distinguishing himself. From the vicinity of his residence to Edinburgh, he was in the practice of frequently resorting to the capital, to enjoy the company of men of talents. Several of these had instituted a society for literary and philosophical disquisition, of which Mr. Home was an original and distinguished member. This institution comprehended several of the most eminent characters of the day. Among others, were enrolled the names of Mr. Alexander Wedderburn, afterwards Earl of Rosslyn, and Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain; Ferguson, the philosopher; Hume, and Robertson, the historians, and Blair, the rhetorician and divine; men, whom it would be superfluous here to panegyrisse.

It was about this period that Mr. Home, in his retirement, began seriously to court the dramatic Muse. The first tragedy he wrote was *Agis*, founded on a portion of the Lacedæmonian history. He went to London with the manuscript, in hopes of getting it introduced on the stage, but in this he was disappointed, insurmountable objections having been made to the plot. Our poet, not at all discouraged by this failure, conceived the plan of another play, laid the plot in Scotland, and made his hero one of his own countrymen. In presenting this to the London manager, he had the mortification of a second refusal. Notwithstanding the abilities of Garrick, as a dramatist, his opinion of the merit of plays was not infallible. He rejected the tragedy of Douglas as being too simple in its fable, and destitute of stage effect. Whether Garrick ever examined at all into its merits, or delegated this office to another, on whose report he formed his decision, cannot now be ascertained. He, however, candidly confessed, through the remainder of his life, whenever the subject was agitated, that no circumstance, in the course of his management, gave him so much concern, as the rejection of this play.

By such repeated discouragement, the ardour of Home was by no means suppressed. Being acquainted with the leading characters in Scotland, a ready reception of his play at Edinburgh was secured. At the first representation of Douglas, in the theatre, in Canongate, on the 14th December 1756, Mr. Home, and several of his clerical brethren were present. Of this circumstance the zealots of the day speedily got notice. That, a clergyman should write a play, and that ministers of the gospel should witness its performance! were crimes unheard of in the annals of the church. The hue and cry of bigotry was immediately raised. All that ignorance could conceive, prejudice effect, or malice invent, was tried to suppress the play in its birth. It was violently decried as a production of immoral tendency, and furnishing, by its catastrophe, an encouragement to suicide. The clergy ordered a pastoral admonition to be delivered from their pulpits, on the sin and danger of attending the theatre. The author was summoned to appear before the bar of the presbytery; his friends were peremptorily dragged before their tribunal, some of them dismissed with censure, and others suspended from their office.

While such was the state of affairs in Scotland, Douglas having been performed to crowded houses during the greater part of the season, and fully gratifying the most sanguine hopes of the author, it was, through the interest of David Hume brought forward on the London stage. Garrick having now discovered his mistake, made unusual exertions to introduce it to public notice and approbation. Hume had, shortly before its representation, published four dissertations, and inscribed them to our author. In his dedication he pronounced so flattering a panegyric upon Mr. Home, and bestowed such unqualified approbation on his play, that the public expectation was raised too high. The consequence was, that the success of Douglas was at first doubtful in the metropolis. It soon, however, became a standard tragedy, and maintains its ground on the British stage to the present day.

The clamours of his enemies having not yet subsided in Scotland, Mr. Home, seeing no prospect of overcoming their prejudices, preached his farewell sermon to his congregation on the 5th of June 1757. The discourse was so pathetic, that it drew tears from most of his audience. To prevent further

proceedings in the church courts against him, he gave in the resignation of his charge to the presbytery of Haddington two days after.

This body continued to persecute with peculiar vehemence Mr. Carlyle, one of Mr. Home's most intimate friends, as well for having accompanied him to the theatre, as from its being generally understood that he assisted Home in the composition of *Douglas*. Although our author himself did not appear at the presbytery, he was not negligent in defence of his friend. He attended the meeting of synod, and supported his cause with great firmness. In reply to the virulent railings of a bigot, he declared, that if there was any fault, it lay not at the door of his friend, but at his own, with whom the crime originated, and concluded his observations in the words of the unfortunate Nisus,

Adsum qui feci, in me convertite ferrum,
Tantum infelicem nimium dilexit amicum.

This appropriate quotation made a sensible impression upon some of the judges, and, in all probability, mitigated the sentence against Mr. Carlyle. Instead of receiving a severe reprimand from the presbytery, he might otherwise (to such a pitch had fanaticism arrived) have been suspended, perhaps expelled from his office.

Before the conclusion of 1757, Mr. Sheridan, then manager of the Dublin theatre, sent over to Mr. Home a gold medal, with a suitable inscription, acknowledging his singular merit in having enriched the English stage with the tragedy of *Douglas*.

With his living, Mr. Home appears for a while to have abandoned his native land, for he now repaired to London, where he produced several other tragedies, under the patronage of Garrick, who wrote prologues to some, epilogues to others, and warmly interested himself in the fate of them all. They are all indeed, greatly inferior to his *Douglas*. *Agis*, the first of his dramatic pieces, was finely acted, and assisted by spectacle, otherwise, it is probable, that it would not have been performed a second night. His third tragedy was founded on the cruel treatment which the two Setons, sons of the governor of Berwick, had experienced from the English. At Mr. Garrick's suggestion, the title was altered (and consequently the characters, and several local passages) from the *Siege of Berwick*, to the *Siege of Aquileia*, for he very naturally conceived, that any national allusions might tend to foment the jealousy which then unfortunately subsisted between the Scots and English. It was acted in 1759. Some of the passages are very fine, but upon the whole, it is a tame performance. The *Fatal Discovery* was produced in 1769, and reluctantly permitted during nine nights. Though Alonzo had the advantage of Mrs. Barry's admirable acting, it shared the same fate; the author mentions in his preface, that she received applause greater than ever shook a theatre. Mr. Home's last production, *Alfred*, lived only three nights.

In the year 1760, Mr. Home published a volume of plays, containing *Agis*, *Douglas*, and the *Siege of Aquileia*, which he dedicated to his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales. His other three tragedies appeared some time after. The whole were collected and edited in two volumes at Edinburgh, in 1798, under the inspection of the late Mr. Woods.

Lord Bute having represented Mr. Home to his Majesty as a man of talents, his name was placed on the pension list, nearly at the same time with that of Dr. Johnson. He lived in a state of retirement from this period to the time of his death.

Nearly half a century after *Douglas* had been written, when the author had returned to, and was settled in his native country, Master Betty, better known by the name of the young Roscius, commenced his theatrical labours at Edinburgh in the character of Young Norval. The author attended the representation, and declared that that was the first time he had ever seen the part of *Douglas* played according to his ideas of the character when he conceived and wrote it.

Mr. Home, at the advanced age of seventy-eight, published his long meditated

tated work, entitled, "The History of the Rebellion in Scotland, in 1745-6," in which he recorded the exploits and remarks of his youth. Of this work it is sufficient to observe, that the principles are just, and the opinions liberal.

For a considerable time prior to his death, Mr. Home's mind, as well as body, seemed to be much impaired. He lived in the most secluded manner, so much so, that the house he inhabited had all the marks of a deserted dwelling. So long as he continued to possess sufficient strength, he used to walk for a certain time every day; the most acute physiognomist, however, who met him, could scarcely have traced any remains of the author of Douglas. He seemed to pay no attention to what was passing, and to possess little more than mere existence. In this distressful state, he lingered for many years. He died at Merchiston house, on the 4th of September 1808, in the 85th year of his age.

A life so little varied by incident as that of Mr. Home, affords few materials for personal character. With a mind well stored with useful and ornamental knowledge, he appears at an early age to have cultivated an acquaintance with the most celebrated literary characters of his time. Fidelity to his friends, and generosity to his enemies, were conspicuous traits in his character. If, in his declining years, his temper appeared to be soured and morose, and his manners harsh and uninviting, we must attribute it to the infirmity of old age, rather than to original disposition.

As a clergyman, he attached himself to that party in the church, who, enlightened in their views, and liberal in their sentiments, present their hearers with a rational view of the doctrines of Christianity. Divesting religion of unmeaning mystery, and checking the spirit of superstitious bigotry, he appears to have performed his ministerial duty with that fidelity and attention which endeared him to his people, and which their conduct at his resignation abundantly testified.

As a man of letters, he will be known to posterity by his tragedies, and especially by his "Douglas," which will probably retain a place among the most approved compositions of that class, and will long continue to delight and interest a British audience.

A. M.

Edinburgh, December 19, 1808.

DR. HAWES.

The account of the late William Hawes, M.D. announced in our last number, having in the interval appeared in another periodical publication; instead of presenting to our readers what might seem only a transcript from another work, we shall add to the account already given in the *Athenæum* some further particulars communicated by a very respectable correspondent intimately connected with the deceased.

"He was a signal instance of the good that may be done by a man whose heart is set upon it. He was indefatigable in the execution of his designs, and they were always designs of public utility or private beneficence. He employed much time laboriously and usefully which the greater part of mankind spend in sleep. During the whole of his life he was in his study by 5 o'clock in the morning, and sometimes as early as 4. His frame was not robust, but he was, upon the whole, blessed with good health—it was the reward of exercise and temperance.

In the important affair of resuscitating the apparently dead, it is in the recollection of a few, and but few, that he experienced a good deal of opposition and ridicule. Less perseverance and ardour than he possessed would not have surmounted the difficulties with which he had to contend.

Though the Humane Society was the object of his particular affection and unceasing solicitude, he was not regardless of other charitable institutions, to most of which (in the metropolis) he was a contributor. But his private benefactions far exceeded those that were public.

The

The poor of the two Dispensaries to which he was Physician, found in him the kindest friend. He frequently discovered that they wanted nourishment rather than medicine, and very largely did he relieve their wants. His custom was to order a butcher, baker, or publican, who lived near the patient, to send in meat, bread, or porter, at stated times. By this means he knew that the poor people really had that which would benefit them. Thus did he restore many whom medical science could never have relieved.

To crown all, he was disinterested beyond any man that I ever knew."

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of the new Theatre in Covent Garden, took place on the last day of the year, and furnished a very grand and interesting spectacle. The whole was under the direction of Mr. Kemble, who paid every possible attention, as well to the accommodation of those who were admitted to see the formalities, as to the ceremony itself. Covered platforms were raised within the interior of the building, for the accommodation of the spectators, and an open platform, from the grand entrance in Bow-street, to the north-east part of the building, where the stone was laid, was railed off, and the flooring covered with green cloth, bordered with crimson, directing the progress of the Masonic Brethren to the spot where the ceremony was to take place. At half past twelve, the Duke of Bedford, Earl Moira, and other distinguished members of the society of Free Masons, proceeded in grand procession from the Free-Mason's Tavern, to the scite of the new Theatre.—They were here received by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master, and some of his Royal Brothers,—soon after their arrival, his Royal Highness led the procession to the spot where the stone was suspended, when the Grand Treasurer of the Superior Lodge deposited a bronze box, containing divers coins and medals of the present reign, in the cavity of the foundation stone; and the cement being prepared, the Prince, as Grand Master, spread the same abroad with his silver trowel, and the stone, weighing upwards of three tons, was then let down, the bands continuing to play a martial air. The Senior and Junior Wardens, and the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Moira, having severally presented his Royal Highness with the plumb, the level, and the square, and the Prince having applied them to the fabric, and pronouncing the work correct, he gave the stone three knocks with his mallet, and the ceremony of placing the stone finished. The corn, wine, and oil, were then presented to the Grand Master, who scattered and poured them on the stone, and immediately afterwards delivered to the architect the plan of the building, desiring him to complete the structure according to that plan; wishing success and prosperity to the work, and the general object of it. *A feu de joie* was then fired, and his Royal Highness retired, after which the Brethren returned to the Hall in procession, and the Grand Lodge was closed. The day was very unfavorable for the exhibition; notwithstanding immense crowds were attracted from all quarters, and the houses in the neighbourhood of Covent Garden were thronged with spectators. The horse-guards patrolled the streets, and several of the Volunteer corps did duty on the occasion. The business of the day terminated before two o'clock.

The New Theatre, we are informed, is to be completely insulated by piazzas into Hart-street and Bow-street. The space before the curtain will not differ materially, as to space, from the old Theatre, but the scene room will be considerably enlarged. The second tier of boxes are to be all private, with a private room and fire-place to each. To the first tier there is to be a separate saloon, which, together with the saloon on the ground floor, are to be on the west side. The stage to be placed in its former situation, and the entrances for the audience, to be as before from Bow-street and Covent-garden. On a level

level with the two-shilling gallery at the sides, are to be slips, or additional boxes, as in the former theatre.

On the night of the 17th January—Several vessels below bridge, having their cables cut by the floating ice, were of course adrift and in much confusion. They were carried with the impetuosity of the morning tide, towards the bridge; and a large West-country barge, ran with her bows under the centre arch, and her mast beat for a long time with such violence against the battlements, as to loosen the masonry for a considerable distance. This was about four o'clock in the morning, and the bargemen, for the imagined security of the vessel, climbed the mast, lashed it to the balustrade, and then returned to the deck to wait the day light and return of the tide. But such was the force of the exciting current, that upwards of fifteen yards of the balustrade were thrown into the river, and four men were killed on board the barge by the stones.

About half past two in the morning, on Saturday the 21st ulto. a fire was discovered in the apartments of the Duke of Cambridge, at St. James's Palace, which raged with great fury for some time. The centinels immediately gave the alarm, and as soon as possible engines arrived from all quarters. At first there was a great difficulty in procuring water, but the pipes were extended to the Canal in the Park, and it was then obtained in abundance. It was, however, impossible for some time to check the rage of the devouring element, and the whole interior of the South East Angle, fronting Marlborough-house, and extending to the first Southern turret, including the turret, was entirely destroyed. The walls and chimnies are standing, and exhibit a mere shell. The Duke was in bed at the time when the alarm was given, but happily escaped from all danger. The property consumed belonged to the Duke, and consisted chiefly of curious armour, valuable cabinet pictures, rarities, &c. of which hardly any thing has been saved. Considerable part of the furniture was speedily removed into the Palace Garden. The flames were checked when they reached the southern turret. Nothing of the fire can be seen from Pall Mall or St. James's-street. Water was also sufficiently supplied from the plugs on the western side of the palace, but the most convenient resource, on account of the direction which the fire took, was derived from the canal. The Horse Guards paraded on both sides of the palace, in order to keep off the crowd, which assembled in vast numbers, but no disturbance or confusion happened; and, much as we regret the event, it is a pleasure to us to say, that the consequences are much better than there was reason to apprehend, from the place where the fire broke out, the time at which it happened, and the difficulty of procuring water. Part of the Royal Armoury is destroyed; but the contents were, in a great degree, removed in due time. A female domestic of one of the Queen's attendants, is supposed to have perished in the flames.

Married. By Special License, at the house of the Earl of Kenmare, in Seymour-street, Portman-square, Sir Thomas Gage, Bart. of Hingrave Hall, Suffolk, to Lady Mary Ann Brown, his Lordship's second daughter.—At *St. James's*, Robert Townsend Farquhar, Esq. second son of Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart. to Maria, youngest daughter of the late Francis Loutour, Esq. of Devonshire-place.—At *St. George's*, Queen-square, Samuel Welchman, Esq. of Stamford-street, to Charlotte, daughter of the late Edward Gordon, Esq. of Bromley, Middlesex.—At *St. Andrews*, Holborn, George Wigley Perrott, Esq. of Craycombe-house, in the county of Worcester, and Captain in the 3d (King's own) Dragoons, to Miss Yates, only daughter of Joseph Yates, Esq. of Peel-hall, in the county of Lancaster, and grand grand-daughter of the late Hon. Mr. Justice Yates.—At *St. Saviour's*, Southwark, the Rev. W. Harrison, Chaplain of that parish, to Miss Hunt, of Walcot-place, Lambeth.

Died. In *Seymour place*, the Hon. Caroline Cornwallis, widow of the Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Cornwallis, late Archbishop of Canterbury, who died in 1783, just before the Coalition Ministry came into Office, on which event, the King immediately bestowed the Primacy on Dr. Moore. The Archbishop was uncle to the late Marquis Cornwallis. His widow, who survived him twenty-

five years, was 84, and preserved her faculties and activity to the last.—In *Grafton street*, Piccadilly, aged 52, the most noble John Dennis, Marquis of Sligo, Earl of Altamont, and Viscount Westport, of Ireland, Baron Monteagle of the United Kingdom, and Knight of St. Patrick's, Governor of the county Mayo, "It has seldom fallen to our lot," say the editors of the *Hibernian Journal*, "to notice an event more distressing to our feelings or more generally deplored. The loss of a Nobleman so public spirited, and so extensively useful, will long be felt. The excitement which he gave to all agricultural improvements, in a poor and remote district, has set an example which it will not be easy to surpass. Lord Sligo was liberal, enlightened, and generous in his mind; candid, ingenuous, and manly in his character. He attached men to him by the openness of his manner, and he retained them by the strength and disinterestedness of his friendship. It would take a copious eulogium indeed, to specify but a part of the many good qualities of this worthy nobleman, many of them will be found displayed in a parental fondness to his tenantry, in numerous establishments to encourage in them a love of industry and morals, upon so incomparable a plan, that the most extreme periods of life might be found on his estate, comforted or educated as well as fed and clothed by his hand alone. He was the poor man's munificent benefactor, the enemy of nothing but vice. He loved his country warmly, he was in fact a good Irishman, a rare character among men of fortune and rank in these times. His Lordship is succeeded in his title and estates, by his only child Hugh Peter, now Marquis of Sligo, who will in a few weeks attain his full age, and who, there is every reason to expect, will pursue the illustrious example which has been set him by a parent so lamented, and honoured by the public sorrow."—In *Sloane street*, Patrick Home, Esq. of Wedderburne, in the county of Berwick, many years a representative in Parliament, for that county.—In *Brook street*, Grove or-square, aged 21, William Bond, Esq. second son of Sir James Bond, Bart.—Peter Pierson, Esq. one of the Benchers of the Inner Temple.—At *Osborne's hotel*, Lieut. William Skelton, of the Royal Navy, aged 27, he was third son of the late Arnoldus Jones Skelton, Esq. of Papcastle, in the county of Cumberland, and first cousin to the present Marquis Cornwallis.—At *Paddington*, Mrs. Natali, an Italian, and formerly a dancer of some eminence. She lived alone in one room, which took fire by some unknown accident, and was burnt in her bed.—In *Cornhill*, Josiah Barnard, Esq. Banker.—In *King street*, Cheapside, aged 71, George Slack, Esq. a gentleman truly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and truly regretted by all his relations and friends.—aged 57, Mr. Alexander Hogg, late Bookseller, of Paternoster-row.—In *Marsh place*, New road, Mrs. Bachan. This lady had returned home from a visit at twelve o'clock at night, and soon after she had retired to her bed-room, her maid-servant was alarmed by her shrieks, and on her entering the room, Mrs. B. appeared enveloped in flames. The servant, in her state of alarm, was unable to afford immediate relief, but went to get other assistance, and in the interim the unfortunate lady was so burnt that she died on Tuesday. She had on a cambric dress which was consumed to tinder.—Near *Hampstead*, aged 22, Mr. Benjamin Toby Harrant. The deceased, who was the son of a gentleman at Brompton, had been with a party, consisting of three young men, snipes shooting; and on its growing dark, a coach was procured to convey the party to London, they having regaled themselves at a public house, for about two hours. Mr. Harrant, who was somewhat inebriated, refused to get into the coach, as he could return to town sooner than his companions by another road. He left the party, and he was found in the Marsh fields, on the other side Hampstead, a corpse. He had got out of his track, it was supposed, during a fall of snow, and was numbed by the intense cold weather, so as to render him unable to help himself.—In *Bennett-street*, Southwark, aged 63, the Rev. Dr. Ackland, rector of Christ-church surrey, and chaplain to the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. He was formerly of St. Johns College Cambridge. B. A. 1764, M. A. 1767, D.D. 1807.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Died. At *Shalstone*, the Rev. J. P. Jervoise, LL.D. Rector of that place, and of *Stretton-on-the-Fosse*, Warwickshire.—At *High Wycombe*, suddenly, of a paralytic stroke, Charles Ward, Esq. Alderman, and twice Mayor of that ancient borough.—Found dead in *Prattfields*, James Whitchurch, senior, of *Silverstone*. He is supposed to have died from the inclemency of the weather.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The late Rev. Mr. Hulse's Premium will this year be given for the best dissertation "On the advantage of difficulties in Religion, or an attempt to shew the good effects which result, or which might result, from the proofs of Revelation being of a *probable* rather than of a *demonstrative* kind."

The subject of the *Seatonian Prize Poem* for the present year is, *The Conquest of Canaan*.—The *Hulsean Prize*, is adjudged to Mr. J. C. Hobbhouse, B.A. of *Trinity College*, for his Essay on the *Origin and Intention of Sacrifice*.

Mr. Robert Gee, B.A. of *Queens College*, is elected a fellow of *Catharine hall*.

The bishop of *Lincoln* has collated the Rev. Mr. Vince, Professor of *Astronomy* in the University, to the *Archdeaconry* of *Bedford*, vacated by the death of Dr. Shepherd.

CORNWALL.

Married. At *Perianzabula*, William Peter, Esq. of *Lincolns Inn*, to *Frances*, only child of *John Thomas*, Esq. of *Chiverton*, Vice-Warden of the *Stannaries*.—At *Landewednack*, Lieut. *Humphries*, of the *Lizard* signal station, to *Miss Christiana Denham*, daughter of Mr. Denham, Surgeon, of *Falmouth*; the bridegroom aged fifty, the bride fifteen.

CUMBERLAND.

It is intended to petition parliament for leave to bring in a bill for making a new road between *Cockermouth* and *Wigton*. The greatest deviation from the present line will be between the former place and *Bothel*; and a considerable one between that place and *Wigton*. By forming this intended line, no less than nine very inconvenient hills will be avoided, the whole road will be nearly level, and the distance will be shortened, at least three miles.

Married. At *Cleator*, *John Birley*, Esq. to *Miss Lindow*, of *Woodend*, near *Egerton*.—At *Gretna Green*, *Thomas Halliday*, Esq. of *Blacksdyke*, in *Home Cultram*, to *Miss Reed*, of *Cunninggarth*, eldest daughter of *Capt. Reed* of *Knowhill*.

Died. At *Carlisle*, aged 86, Mrs. *Holmes*, widow of the late *Robert Holmes*, Esq. solicitor.

DERBYSHIRE.

Married. At *Derby*, *Charles Bage*, Esq. of *Shrewsbury*, to *Miss Harding*, daughter of the late *William Harding*, Esq. of *Tamworth*.

Died. At *Packington*, aged 47, *Captain Fort Denegor*, a French prisoner of war, lately resident on parole at *Ashby-de-la-Zouch*; by the evidence laid before the coroner's jury, it appears that his death was occasioned by a sword wound, received, it is conjectured, in a duel, fought with some one of his fellow prisoners. The body was found by a labouring man, about five in the afternoon in a field at *Packington*, about a mile from *Ashby*, and warm. The coat and waistcoat worn by the deceased had been taken off before the supposed combat, as was evident from the coat not being pierced by the weapon; the former lay loose, and covered the body; and the waistcoat, with a pocket-handkerchief, were found within a few yards, and another handkerchief lay on the feet of the deceased, but no weapon was found, nor was any person observed near the place. The sword entered the breast on the right side, between the fourth and fifth ribs, passed through the lungs, and pierced the heart; the left hand was also wounded between the second and third fingers. The Jury returned a verdict of *Wilful Murder* against some person or persons unknown.—It appeared that this gentleman, in the course of the same after-

noon

noon, had acquainted the person with whom he lodged, he expected a letter to be sent for him, and desired if it came he might be called from a public-house he frequented; that he soon afterwards returned, to inquire if the letter had been received, and again a third time; and, about four o'clock, finding no letter, he left his lodgings apparently in some haste. No further circumstances have yet transpired which throw any material light on this transaction, nor is it conjectured with which of the prisoners this fatal recontre took place.

DEVONSHIRE.

Peter Radford, Esq. is elected surgeon of the Devon and Exeter hospital in the room of the late John Sheldon, Esq.

Married. At *Exeter*, Edward Lloyd Sanders, Esq. to Miss Andrew, daughter of the late Archdeacon Andrew.—The Rev. W. Cowlard, late Fellow of Baliol College, Oxford, to Miss Arundell, of St. David's Hill.—At *Bickley*, Francis Coull, Esq. to Mrs. Damarel, relict of the late Walter Damarel, Esq.—At *Woodbury*, Captain Alexander Radford Hughes, of the Madras Military Establishment, to Miss Jane Huckell Lee, third daughter of Thomas Huckell Lee, Esq. of Ebford Barton, near Exeter.

Died. The Rev. John Rymer, of Littleham and Exmouth. He discharged the duties of his ministerial office with humility and zeal; was a faithful assentor of the genuine and orthodox doctrines of the church of England, was uniformly exemplary and pious; his humanity and unremitted attention to the indigent and sick, were manifest to all, and his memory will long be held in veneration by all real lovers of christianity.—At *Exeter*, aged 88, William Bedwell, Esq. formerly an eminent serge manufacturer.—At *Stonehouse*, Plymouth, Mrs. Nicholson, wife of George Nicholson, Esq. Purser of the Royal Navy. Mrs. N. the preceding evening attended the Marine Ball with a party of friends, and appeared to be in perfect health and spirits.—At *Dewlish*, Miss Gardiner, daughter of the late Colonel Gardiner, of Bellevue, Southampton.—At *Exmouth*, aged 85, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton..

DORSETSHIRE.

Married. At *Beaminster*, the Rev. William Rose Holden, A. M. Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, to Miss Eveleigh.—At *Lyme-Regis*, William Maule, Esq. of Piccadilly, to Mrs. Blackney, of Bath.

Died. At *Poole*, aged 72, James Seager, Esq. one of the aldermen of the corporation.

ESSEX.

Married. At *Wanstead-House*, his serene Highness the Prince de Conde, to her serene Highness the princess Dowager de Monaco.—At *Chigwell*, James Brabazon Urmston, Esq. of Chigwell, to Elizabeth, third daughter of John Hanson, Esq. of Russell-square.—At *East-Ham*, John Masterman, Esq. of New Broad-street, to Miss Harris, daughter of Robert Harris, Esq.

Died. At *Stratford Grove*, aged 45, Mrs. Langford, wife of Richard Langford, Esq. Enfield, Middlesex.—At *Colchester*, aged 44, the Rev. James Round, M.A. rector of St. Runwald's, in that town. A man whose exemplary conduct and conciliatory manners, endeared him not only to his family, but to all who knew him. His memory will be long revered by his parishioners, to whom he preached the doctrines of christianity, and was a bright example of what he taught.—On the following day, aged 32, Ann, the wife of George Round, Esq. (younger brother of the above) daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Waller, Archdeacon of Essex.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At *Bristol*, Edward Hutchens, Esq. to Sarah, second daughter of the late Thomas Guest, Esq. of Dowlais iron-works, in Glamorganshire.—Lewis G. Senior, Esq. of the island of Jamaica, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mrs. Hussey, late of Salisbury.—Thomas Skyrme Protheroe, Esq. eldest son of Thomas Protheroe, Esq. of Abbott's Leigh, Somerset, to Ann, second daughter of William Holder, Esq.—At *Barnwood*, David Morgan, of Westham, in *Essex*, Esq. to Maria, second daughter of David Morris,

riss, Esq. M. P. for the city of Gloucester.—At Cirencester, Daniel Mill Esq. of Miserdine, to Miss Hester Howes, daughter of the late John Howes, Esq.

Died. At Clifton, Thomas Beddoes, M.D. By his death physic has lost one of her ablest practitioners, and philosophy has been deprived of one of her profoundest disciples. As an Author, he was read and admired—and as a private character, esteemed and beloved.—At Uley, Nathaniel Lloyd, Esq. an eminent clothier.—At Pardon-hill, near Winchcomb, Thomas Pearcy, Esq.—At Braydon, aged 45, Mrs. Smith. She was found burnt to death over a pan of coals in the brewhouse, on which she is supposed to have fallen in a fit.—At Wick, near Berkely, Mr. Wm. Bennett, a respectable farmer. Mr. Bennett, and two of his sons, whilst out in one of the adjoining fields, during a thunder storm, in the month of November, 1807, were struck down by the lightning, and one of the youths and a cow were killed on the spot. Although the two survivors sustained but a momentary shock, neither of them has enjoyed such a good state of health as before the accident.—At Neuent, Mr. William Collis, eldest son of the late T. Collis, Esq. of Ross.

HAMPSHIRE.

Capt. Freemantle and Capt. Baynton, who were deputed to see the monument erected on Portsdown Hill, to the memory of Lord Nelson, properly executed, inspected it last week, and are satisfied that the wishes of the fleet have been complied with. They have given directions for the following inscription to be put on it:—

“Consecrated to the memory of Lord Viscount Nelson, by the zealous attachment of all those who fought at Trafalgar—to perpetuate his triumph and their regret—1805.”

And on the opposite side the following:—

“The British fleet consisted of 27 ships of the line:—of France and Spain, there were 33—19 of which were taken or destroyed.”

Died. At *Whitchurch*, William Allen, Deputy Receiver-General of taxes for the county.—At *Sidmonton House*, the seat of her brother, Sir Robert Kingsmill, Baronet, Miss Kingsmill, youngest daughter of the late Edward Kingsmill, Esq. late of Belfast, and niece to the late Admiral Sir Robert Kingsmill.—At an advanced age, Andrew Shaw, well known at Portsmouth for upwards of thirty years, as a bill-sticker, in which employ, by industry and frugality, he amassed more than 900*l*. He was a soldier in the battle of Minden.—At *Fareham*, aged 48, John Loring, Esq. Captain in the Royal Navy, and commander of the Hampshire Fencibles. He was the youngest son of Commodore Loring, of New England, whose family at the breaking out of the American war, preserved their allegiance to the mother country in the most pure and disinterested manner. Capt. Loring was a most able, brave, and experienced officer. He was Commodore on the Jamaica station in 1803, and made so judicious a blockade of Cape François, that the *Duquesne*, a French eighty gun ship, and several frigates, fell into his hands. Had he recovered his health, which was impaired by a long series of professional exertions, it is probable that he would have been soon intrusted with an important command. He was a most amiable man in private life, and distinguished as an attentive husband, father, and friend. He has left a widow and three children to lament his loss.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Married. At *Ludford*, Edward Prokus, of Ludlow, Esq. banker, to Miss Pouch.

Died. Aged 74, the Rev. William Lucas, Rector of Peterstow, near Ross. As a clergyman, he was pious, conscientious, and exemplary; in conversation, agreeable, cheerful, and unassuming: hospitable, benevolent, and liberal. In conjugal love few surpassed him; as a parent, most tender and affectionate; the mildness of his manners endeared him to his friends and acquaintance. As he lived, highly beloved, his death is deeply lamented.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

Died. At *Gorhambury*, near St. Alban's, aged 62, the Right-Honourable James Bucknall Grimston, Viscount Grimston, of the kingdom of Ireland, and one of the representatives in parliament for the county, from 1775 until he was

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created,

created, July 6, 1790, a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Lord Verulam. Though a man of sound understanding, those who connected with the title of Verulam, the idea and the recollection of that unfortunate and illustrious person, so eminent in our history under Elizabeth and James I. whom Pope describes, as

"The greatest, wisest, meanest of mankind,"

were inclined to criticise Lord Grimstone's assumption of a title which had formerly been conferred on him. Lord Grimstone being, however, the actual possessor of Gorbamby, once the seat of the Lord Chancellor Bacon, no doubt induced or impelled him to take the same title as that eminent personage had chosen. The late Lord Grimstone's father, who was made an Irish Viscount, in 1719, by George I. purchased Gorbamby; and it was on that purchase that Pope's indignant lines were composed, where he says,

"Shades that to Bacon might delight afford,

"Become the portion of some booby lord."

He is succeeded by his only son, James Walter, born in 1775, who lately sat in Parliament, for the Borough of St. Alban's, until, by the death of his mother, (page 83) he succeeded to the barony of Forrester of Corstorphine, in Scotland.—At *Ware*, esteemed, respected, and lamented by her friends and acquaintance, Jane, wife of Mr. John Prince, Surgeon, of Balsham, in Cambridgeshire.

KENT.

Married. At *Betshanger*, William Fuller Boteler, Esq. Recorder of Canterbury, to Charlotte, eldest daughter of the late James Leigh Joynes, Esq. of Mount Pleasant, near Gravesend.—At *Maidstone*, Stephen Durnael, Esq. of London, to Miss Charlotte Geere, daughter of the late T. Geere, of Loose.—William Scudmore, Esq. to Miss Davies, of Mortlake, Surry.—At *Woolwich*, Henry Clenton Martin, Esq. in the Royal Artillery, to Louisa, only daughter of the late Major Newton, of the same corps.—At *Shoreham*, John Laurens Bicknell, Esq. of the Inner Temple, to Jane, eldest daughter of Thomas Wilcott, Esq.

Died. At *Sydenham*, aged 88, Charles Bill, Esq. late of Farley Hall in Staffordshire, and many years an active, upright, and useful magistrate for that county.—At *Blackheath*, aged 72, Captain Thomas Gooch, a member of the Turkey Company, in which trade he commanded a ship for thirty years. He possessed a generous and benevolent mind, warm and sincere in his friendship; he lived beloved by his numerous friends and relatives, and died sincerely regretted and lamented.—At *Greenwich*, in consequence of a wound he received 35 years since, which had never been perfectly cured, aged 61, Captain John Bouchier, Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich. Captain Browell has been appointed to succeed him, as Lieutenant Governor of that institution.—At *Brompton*, Mrs. Weatherall, relict of the late J. Weatherall, Esq. formerly door-keeper of Chatham Yard.—The Hon. Mrs. Woodgate, wife of Henry Woodgate, Esq. of Spring Grove.—At *Barton*, near Canterbury, Allen Grebell, Esq. Secretary and Treasurer to the Kent Agricultural Society.—At *Margate*, aged 84, Charles Dalbiac, Esq.

LANCASHIRE.

Married. At *Liverpool*, Mr. Kenrick Watson, of Stourport, Worcestershire, son of William Watson, Esq. of Belvedere, Cheshire, to Mary, daughter of Mr. George Worthington.—At *Aldingham*, Miles Walker, Esq. of Rutland Hall, to Miss Jane Atkinson, second daughter of the late Robert Atkinson, Esq. of Farness Abbey.—At *Gretna-Green*, Mr. Baynes, of Chipping, to Miss Parker, only daughter of John Parker, Esq. of Whittingham-Hall, near Preston.—At *Rufford*, the Rev. Thomas Clark, Curate of that place, to Miss Mary Alty, daughter of the late Mr. Richard Alty. The bridegroom, an eccentric genius published his own *banus* three several Sundays, in order, as he said, to prove the *patience* and *humility* of his bride, and to set his parishioners an example in *person*, in what manner the holy estate of matrimony should be entered upon by those who do it *deliberately*.

Died. At *Liverpool*, aged 60, Mr. Richard Boothby. He was serving as a Midshipman on board the *Æolus* frigate, at the time of the capture of the famous *Thurot*. He was perfectly skilled in seamanship, navigation, astronomy, and

and music; talents but rarely combined in the same person.—Aged 56, Mr. Thomas Phillips, Dock-Master.—At *Sparth-House*, near Blackburn, aged 41, Charles Brookbank, Esq.—At *Groppenhall*, the Rev. Peter Halsted, Rector of that parish.—At *Preston*, Dr. Cornelius Cheetham. He went to bed apparently well, and was found dead the next morning.—At *Manchester*, suddenly, Mr. Smith, of Chaddock-Hall. On the day of his death he had been transacting business on the exchange, which he left at twelve o'clock, apparently in perfect health, but immediately on returning to his warehouse, was seized with an apoplectic fit, and expired before one.—At *Salford*, ——— Roberts, an apprentice to a chimney-sweeper—while sweeping a chimney, the soot communicating with the flue of an adjoining chimney, set that on fire in which the boy was, who was literally scorched to death.—Why is no law passed, prohibiting the inhuman practice of clearing chimneys in this manner? Surely, whoever permits a poor friendless child to be sent up a chimney, where he may be exposed to the most excruciating of all deaths, is at least as deserving of fine and imprisonment as he who kills a hare or a partridge.—At *Blackburn*, at the advanced age of 80 years, Richard Carradice, of Ribchester-bridge; who, 77 years since, lost his sight by the small-pox. In the year 1798, when in the 70th year, he walked from Ribchester to Porchester, in Hampshire, upwards of 200 miles, to visit his son, and pushed a hand cart before him all the way. A very short time before his death he could contrive to thread the smallest needle.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

Died. At *Leicester*, Mr. Carrick, who for upwards of half a century had conducted an extensive seminary in that town. In his professional capacity he was universally esteemed and respected, in society he was a facetious, well-informed, pleasant companion; in his general deportment, a man of the strictest probity and honour.—Aged 96, Thomas Browne, Gent. he was formerly an eminent artist, but had retired from business many years, upon a competence acquired with the fairest honour and integrity.—At *Melton-Mowbray*, aged 97, Mrs. Reeve, mother of William Reeve, Esq. of Leadenham, in Lincolnshire.—At *Loughborough*, aged 90, Robert Stephens, Gent.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Died. Aged 78, Mr. Broughton, formerly an eminent attorney at King's-Cliffe, and latterly sub-librarian at the Subscription-room in Stamford.—At *Kirtons Lindsey*, at a very advanced age, supposed nearly 100, Mrs. Letitia Bullock. She was the last of the once considerable family of Osgodby, of Osgodby.—At *Sutton*, Mrs. Greaves, relict of Samuel Greaves, Esq. of Deeping, St. James's.—At *Spalding*, aged 76, Mrs. Gresham Denham, relict of the Rev. John Denham, of that place.—At *Boston*, aged 77, Mr. George Moore. He was one of his majesty's coroners for the county thirty-three years, and had rented and conducted the sheep-market of the borough of Boston upwards of thirty years.

NORFOLK.

Married. At *Yarmouth*, William Lacke, Esq. Governor of the Royal Naval Hospital, to Mrs. Worship, widow of the late John Worship, Esq. of Runham.

Died. At *Tasburgh*, aged 48, Somers Clarke, Esq. late of the East India Company's service.—At *Cley next the Sea*, aged 67, Thomas Jones, Esq. collector of his majesty's customs.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Married. At *Pitsford*, the Rev. Edward Collins Wright, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, to Mary, daughter of the late David Wright, Esq. of the island of Jamaica.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Bills of Mortality for Newcastle and Gateshead, 1808. At *St. Nicholas*, Christened, Males, 77; Females, 63—140 Buried: Males 42, Females 33—75; Marriages 60.—*All-Saints*, Christenings, Males 271, Females 265—536. Burials, Males 82, Females 63—145. Marriages 156. *St. John*, Christenings, Males 76, Females 49—125. Burials, Males 54, Females 56—110. Marriages 121. *St. Andrew*, Christenings, Males 62, Females 78—140. Burials, Males 66, Females 60—126, Marriages 55. *St. Mary, Gateshead*, Christenings, Males 150, Females 144—224. Burials, Males 89, Females 114—203, Marriages 62.

Interred

Interred at the Ballast-Hills 485. Total Christenings 1235, Burials 1144, Marriages 454. Increased in Burials this year 111, in Baptisms 57, in Marriages 41.

Married. At Newcastle, Richard Rackoll, Esq. Captain in the Suffolk Militia, to Miss Brumwell, daughter of William Brumwell, Esq.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

General Account of the Baptisms and Burials within the town of Nottingham for the year ending 31st day of December 1808.—*Parish of St. Mary*, Baptisms, Males 496, Females 482—total 978. Decrease in Baptisms 75. Burials, Males 239, Females 244—total 483, decrease 125. *Parish of St. Nicholas*, Baptisms, Males 64, Females 54—total 118, increase 10. Burials, Males 53, Females 57—total 90, decrease 36. *Parish of St. Peter*, Baptisms, Males 28, Females 44, total 82, increase 19. Burials, Males 28, Females 36, decrease 21. The above statement is taken from the regular books of the different parishes, and of course does not include the various descriptions of dissenters.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Rev. John Piddocke, of Christ Church, B. A. is admitted Master of Arts, Grand Compounder, and Rev. John Richard Tetlow, and Rev. William Wilson, of Queens. Rev. Samuel Evans, of Oreal. Mr. John Loveday, of Brazenoze. Hon. Geo. Eden, of Christ Church, B. A. Masters of Arts.—The Rev. Thomas Scott, of Queen's College, Bachelor of Arts, Grand Compounder, and Messrs. Edward Crocker, of Exeter, and Henry Dellon, of Worcester college, Bachelors of Arts.

The Rev. John James, M. A. Fellow of St. John's College, is elected Grammar Master of the Free School, at Chigwell, in Essex, void by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Freeman.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Chatham, Governor of the Island of Jersey, has presented the Rev. Michael Duprè, B.D. and Fellow of Exeter-college, to the living of St. John's, in that island, worth 120l. per ann.; the Rector and Fellows of Exeter college having been unanimous in their opinion, that the living in question is tenable with Mr. Duprè's fellowship. Mr. Durell (a native of Jersey) has appealed from that decision to the Bishop of Exeter, Visitor of the said College, alleging, that by a clause in the Letters Patent of King Charles I. who founded the Fellowship, it is provided, that, within a convenient time, the Fellow shall return to the island to serve God, should a proper promotion be offered to him, and that that clause vacates the fellowship. The Rector and Fellows, along with Mr. Duprè, on the other hand, contend, that the clause, in its literal meaning, cannot operate against the statute of the college *de promotione et causis deserendi collegium*; by which statute the living of St. John's is tenable with a fellowship, nor against the decree of Bishop Fisher, in 1801, which permits any of the Fellows to hold a living, though above 8l. per ann. in the King's books, provided the clear annual income at the time of taking it does not exceed the sum of 120l. The Visitor's decision is shortly expected.

SHROPSHIRE.

Married. At Bridgnorth, Thomas Jay, Esq. of Brampton, to Miss Ellen Elizabeth Smith, third daughter of Mr. Smith, town clerk of Bridgnorth.—At Whitchurch, Charles Roddy, Esq. to Catherine, third daughter of Benjamin Kent, Esq. of Clifford's-inn, London.—At Hales Owen, Mr. T. Hill, of Dudley, to Miss Powell, only daughter of Wm. Powell, Esq. of High Fields.

Died. At Ludlow, William Purslow, self-titled, Esq. This eccentric character some years ago so tamed two hedge hogs that they perambulated the streets with him in a degree of discipline which astonished the beholders. In the early part of his life he was a soldier, and served under "The old Cock of the Rock," during its siege by the Spaniards. Though in the utmost degree of penury and wretchedness, and indebted to the benevolence of his neighbours for his support, he would never submit to accept of parochial relief, and several years ago deposited seven pounds, which he had contrived to scrape together, in the custody of a friend, for the express purpose of defraying his funeral expences, that even his interment might not be chargeable to the parish funds. Of this sum three-fourths remained untouched at the day of his death. His form was athletic, his constitution robust, and his features discovered a firm heroic spirit. Had he been placed in more fortunate circumstances for the exhibition

of that spirit, he would probably have been a hero of prominent merit. During several years past, rheumatic lameness, occasioned and confirmed by his hard manner of living, compelled him to hobble upon crutches. In principles, he was strictly honest, in manners, civil and inoffensive, except when inebriated, as he too often was by the donations of travellers and military officers, on which occasions he was frequently conveyed home in a one-wheeled chariot, to the no small amusement of boys and adults. Briefly, he was at heart a man of genuine integrity and independence of soul, and so far, poor Purslow has left thousands of survivors who are not his equals.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

The anniversary of the Bath and West of England Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, was most numerously attended by nobility, members of parliament, and principal gentlemen of the society, from various parts of the West of England, and of the nation at large. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester being present, and condescending to be appointed an honorary member, gave peculiar felicity to this meeting. The exhibitions of live stock were more valuable than numerous, and deemed better than for several years past. The samples of manufacture in broad cloth, kerseymere, corduroys, shawls, stockings, &c. were numerous and most excellent, evincing the growing importance of the Anglo-Merino wool, from which they were made, and which, so far from degenerating, evidently increases in firmness of pile, to the great satisfaction of the society, and with every prospect of permanent advantage to the community. Carcases, also, of this mixture of sheep were exhibited in a slaughtered state, the mutton of which was beautiful. Several useful implements in mechanics were produced for the society's approbation. On the whole, this meeting was highly important. The members, with their President, dined together at the White Hart on the principal days, and much interesting discussion was maintained till the final close of the sittings.

Died. At Bath, after a life of honour, ardent zeal in his country's good, and every act of Christian virtue and private benevolence, General Edward Smith, uncle to the gallant Sir Sidney Smith, colonel of the 43d regiment of foot, and Governor of Fort Charles, Jamaica. The General was present with Wolfe, at the ever memorable battle of Quebec, and on many other glorious occasions, and was as brave and distinguished as an officer, as he was good as a man. His loss will be widely and most justly lamented. Aged 66, the Right Honourable Allan Lord Gardner. His lordship was born at Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire; his father was lieutenant-colonel of the 11th regiment of dragoon-guards, and a native of Colerain, in the north of Ireland. Lord Gardner commenced his naval career on the 1st of May, 1755, on board the Medway, of 60 guns, commanded by Captain Peter Dennis, and was in that ship in 1757, when, in company with the Eagle, they took the Duc d'Aquitaine, of 60 guns. On the 7th of March, 1760, he was advanced to a lieutenant, and appointed to the Bellona, of 74 guns; he was afterwards in nine glorious actions, in all of which he displayed such courage, skill, and magnanimity, as were rewarded ultimately by his sovereign with the appointment of admiral of the blue, major-general of the marines, created a baron of the United Kingdom, and had the honour of receiving from the hand of his Majesty a gold chain, in approbation of his conduct on the 29th of May, and 1st of June, 1794. He married, in the year 1769, Miss Hide, of Jamaica, and has left by her ladyship, who survives him, a very numerous family, including two sons in the navy, the eldest of whom, Admiral Allan Hyde Gardner, succeeds him in his title and estate. On the 9th ult. Lord Gardner's remains were deposited in the Abbey-church. The funeral was conducted with appropriate grandeur and solemnity; the hearse, six mourning coaches, and a long retinue of gentlemen's carriages, formed the ample procession. Four sons of his lordship paid their last offering of filial affection, as chief mourners: the pall-bearers were Admiral Sir C. Knowles, Bart. Admiral McDonnell, Sir J. Saumarez, Admiral Wolsley, Admiral Stirling, and Admiral Pickmore. There has been seldom seen on any similar occasion in that city so great a concourse of spectators as attended this funeral; all appearing devoutly anxious to pay the last tribute of respect to one of the firmest supporters of our naval renown.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Married. At *Uttoxeter*, John Webb, Esq. of Barton Park, Derbyshire, to Miss F. Blinston, eldest daughter of John Bluston, Esq. of Woodford.

Died. At *Stoke-upon-Trent*, aged 59, Mr. John Poulson, an eminent manufacturer of china and earthenware, and partner of Mr. Minton of the same place. A man highly esteemed and universally admired for his many estimable qualities; for kindness and affection as a brother; for firmness and sincerity as a friend; for compassion and liberality to all in distress. No pride sullied his manners, no deceit tainted his heart. In his transactions with the world, pure unshaken integrity swayed his whole conduct. He was endowed with that ornament of human nature, a meek and gentle spirit. In his whole deportment he was unassuming, inoffensive, and ever ready to oblige. By his death society has been deprived of a very worthy member, and those with whom he was more nearly connected, of a most kind and attentive relation. His memory will long be cherished by all who had the pleasure of being acquainted with him, and to him the following lines of Pope's epitaph on his friend Gay will often be applied.

"A safe companion and an easy friend,

"Unblamed through life, lamented in thy end."

SUFFOLK.

Married. The Rev. Robert Gwilt, rector of Icklinghams, All Saints, and St. James, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Henry Williams, Esq. of Nassau, New Providence.

Died. Aged 51, sincerely and deservedly regretted, the Rev. John Stegall, rector of Hensett, Suffolk.—At *Wetherden*, aged 73, after an illness of three days, sincerely regretted and respected by his friends, the Rev. Richard Shepherd, D.D. rector of Wetherden and Helmingham, in Suffolk, and arch-deacon of Bedford. He was an instance of very considerable erudition, united with rare condescension, and though he filled an office of dignity in the church, he was not the less attentive to the humbler but equally important duties of a parish priest. In him the poor will long deplore the loss of a kind benefactor, and all of a zealous pastor. His publications, which are various, all breathe the spirit of a mild benevolence, and evince the liberal and enlightened divine, added to the pious and rational philosopher.

SURREY.

Married. At *Dorking*, Thomas Bowen, Esq. post-captain in the royal navy, and late commander of his Majesty's ship, *Hindostan*.—At *Lambeth church*, C. H. Wohrmann, Esq. of Riga, to Miss E. Scougall, eldest daughter of George Scougall, Esq. of Lambeth.

Died. At *Mitcham*, aged 104, Thomas Clee. He had spent the earlier part of his life as a gardener. This man was a native of Herefordshire, but of late years resided at Mitcham. He retained his faculties to the last, and lived during four reigns.

SUSSEX.

Married. At *Seaford*, John Henry Tilson, Esq. of Wallinton Park, in Oxfordshire, to Sophia, the widow of the Rev. Edward Langford, and eldest sister of Thomas Henry Harben, Esq. of Corsica Hall, near Seaford.—At *Lewes*, Captain Prescott, of the 5th dragoon guards, to Miss Mary Falkiner, daughter of the late Caleb Falkiner, eldest son of Sir Riggs Falkiner, Bart.

Died. At *Lewes*, Mrs. Crampton, widow of the late James Crampton, Esq.

WARWICKSHIRE.

Married. At *Birmingham*, Joseph Secome, Esq. of Birmingham Heath, to Miss Mary Hickman, of Handsworth.

Died. At *Studley Castle*, aged 80, Philip Lyttleton, Esq.—At *Alton House*, near Coventry, Mrs. Seymour, wife of John Seymour, Esq. In the vicinity of Birmingham, Mr. John Ireland, author of the illustrations of Hogarth, and of several other works. Mr. I. was born at the Trench farm, near Wem, in Shropshire, in a house which had been rendered somewhat remarkable by having been the birth-place and country residence of Wycherley the poet; and is descended from a race that were eminent for their conscientious adherence to their religious principles. His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Holland, and great grand-daughter of the Rev. Philip Henry. Mr. I. discovered

covered a strong predilection to letters and painting, but his friends thought he had also a turn for mechanics, and therefore determined to make him a watchmaker, and to that business he was accordingly devoted. While very young, he married an amiable and estimable woman, of a turn and temper exactly congenial with his own, and, with every prospect of success, engaged in an extensive business. In this, though his connexions were numerous, and his knowledge of his art indisputable, he was not successful. For pictures and prints he had an enthusiastic fondness, and in each class, especially in the works of Mortimer and Hogarth, had a well-selected collection; and of books, a well-chosen library. He lived on terms of the most unreserved intimacy with many men that were eminent in the arts, at the bar, and in the church; and at his table were to be met Mortimer, Gainsborough, and Henderson, with many other characters highly distinguished for talents and taste. With Gainsborough he was upon the most friendly terms, and that admirable artist presented to him an excellent portrait of Henderson, of whom Mr. Ireland was the first protector; for in his house this popular actor resided many years, as a friend and a brother, before he could be admitted to try his strength on the stage, though aided by every recommendation which Mr. Ireland or any of his connections could afford him. His life and letters of Henderson were published in 1786, and are stated in the preface to have been the first book he had written. The next publication with his name prefixed was Hogarth, illustrated in two volumes, to which he some time afterwards added a supplementary volume compiled from Hogarth's papers. To this volume, in consequence of his being frequently mistaken for the late Mr. Samuel Ireland, he thought proper to prefix an advertisement disclaiming all connexion or relationship with the proprietor of the Shakspeare papers. For the works of Hogarth, we have already said, he had an early predilection, so that we can readily conceive he engaged in their illustration *con amore*. The book abounds with anecdotes, which the author's long connections with men conversant with such subjects enabled him to supply. These are generally told in an easy and agreeable style, and if not always appropriate to the print described, have a general relation to the subject. For several years Mr. Ireland had been afflicted with a complication of disorders, which had rendered society irksome to him; and we are concerned to hear, that his latter days were clouded by pecuniary difficulties.

WILTSHIRE.

Married. At Hale church, near Salisbury, the Hon. Duncombe Pleydell-Bouverie, to Miss Louisa May, second daughter of the late Joseph May, Esq. of Hale.

Died. In the prime of life, the Rev. Mr. Jervoise, second son of the Rev. Tristram Huddleston Jervoise, of Britford-house, and brother of Col. Jervoise, of the North Hants Militia.—At Stokechurch, Mr. John Habershaw. The deceased was a farmer, whose house an attempt had been made to rob, but the thieves were disturbed, and one of them so badly wounded by the farmer, that it was with difficulty his companions got him away. Three weeks afterwards, at eleven o'clock at night, the house was again assailed by the same gang of ruffians, who after locking up the servant in a closet, proceeded to a bed-room where Mr. and Mrs. Habershaw slept, and with dreadful imprecations demanded the drawers in the room to be opened, which being done by Mr. Habershaw, and the thieves having got possession of money and notes to the amount of 150l. one of them barbarously murdered him with a bludgeon, in the presence of his wife, whom they bound to the bed, and decamped. It was five o'clock next morning before the situation of Mrs. Habershaw and the servant was discovered; pursuit was immediately made after the ruffians, but hitherto without effect.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At St. John's, near Worcester, Herbert Lloyd, Esq. of Carmarthen, to Charlotte Maria, daughter of the late John Holliday, Esq. of Llanelly.

Died. At Gonsal-cottage, William Wilson, Esq. He served the office of Mayor of Worcester in 1806.—At Eversham, after only a few hours indisposition, John Phillips, Esq.—On the evening of the same day, Mr. Edward Pritchett,

chett, druggist: while conversing with some friends on the sudden dissolution of Mr. Phillips, dropped down, and instantly expired.

YORKSHIRE.

Married. At *Baildon*, John Lambert, Esq. of Hull, to Anne, eldest daughter of Wm. Holden, Esq.—At *Wath*, near Rippon, Charles Jones, Esq. of the Inner Temple, London, to Miss Janson, daughter of Mr. Janson, of Melmerby.—At *Bedale*, the Rev. Richard Inman, vicar of Christchurch, in the city of York, to Miss Innman, daughter of Mr. Whaley C. Innman.—At *Sculcoates*, John Pensonby, Esq. of the Royal Navy, to Miss Eliza Browne, daughter of the late William Browne, Esq. of Tallantire-hall, Cumberland.—At *Leeds*, Thomas Moore, Esq. of Kirkmellow, in the Isle of Man, to Mrs. Goosh.—At *Stonham*, Capt. Gore Brown, of the Royal Artillery, to Miss Eliza Theed.—At *Thornhill*, Capt. John Sykes, of the East-India Service, to Miss M. Morgan, daughter of A. Morgan, Esq. of Savage Gardens, London.—Thomas Wrightson, Esq. of Easingwold, to Miss Wade, of Northallerton.—At *Patley-Bridge*, Mr. Robert Longster, of Silver-hill, aged 17 years and 6 months, to Miss Margaret Holdsworth, of Stoney bank Hall, aged 14 years and 11 months.

Died. At *York*, aged 70, Richard Metcalfe, Esq. an alderman of the corporation. He served the office of Sheriff in 1787, and that of Lord Mayor in 1795.—Aged 67, William Burgh, Esq. L.C.D. a man of great erudition and philanthropy.—At *Beverley*, after a severe illness, Lieut. Col. Hutchinson, of Wold Newton, in the East Riding, and Major of the 36th regiment of foot, which regiment so gallantly distinguished itself at the battle of Vimeira. He was an officer of great industry and abilities, which he had shewn in the districts where he had been employed on the staff; nor was he less esteemed in the domestic circles of private life by every friend who knew him. Some years ago he married the eldest daughter of H. Osbaldeston, Esq. of Hunmanby, by whom he has left one daughter. He lived to finish a very neat house and grounds in the village of Wold Newton, and died as he had completed it, verifying the words of the satirist—

We plan the edifice and raise the pile,

Unmindful of the tomb which waits the while.

—At *Leeds*, aged 78, Mrs. Thompson, wife of W. Thompson, Esq. banker.—Mrs. Yorke, wife of Whittle Yorke, Esq. an alderman of the corporation.—Aged 83, Mr. Benjamin North, one of the people called quakers. A man of amiable manners, and of the most kind and benevolent disposition.—In the Workhouse, at Hull, Alice Potts, at the very advanced age of 103 years. She was born at Sunderland, and used to say that she was the first child baptized in that church.—At his father's house, at Tickhill, near Doncaster, aged 26, sincerely regretted, the Rev. William Crowther, M. A. late of Sidney College, Cambridge.—At *Whitby*, aged 89, Mr. Nicholas Rippon, sailmaker.—At *Hesle*, aged 80, Mr. George Brocklebank.

WALES.

Married. At *Brecon*, William Murray, Esq. of the Royal Marines, to Catherine, youngest daughter of Jeffery Wilkins, Esq. of the Priory, Brecon.—At *Llantripont*, George Jenner, Esq. of London, to Miss Traherne, of Castella, Glamorganshire.—The Rev. D. Harris, of Gellyoore, Pembrokeshire, to Miss Davies, eldest daughter of — Davies, Esq. of Noyadd, Carmarthener.

Died. Aged 70, Philip Lloyd Fletcher, Esq. of Gwernhayled, Flintshire.—At *Newport*, aged 36, Mr. Thomas Hall, brewer, formerly of Montague Street, Bristol.—At *Pente-Clawdd*, near Oswestry, aged 99, Mr. John Davis, farmer.—On the 21st of January, at *Neath* in Glamorganshire, aged 33, Miss Esther Rees, second daughter of the late Rev. Josiah Rees, of Gelligrion, in that county.

SCOTLAND.

Married. At *Edinburgh*, Archibald Graham Campbell, Esq. of Skirvan, to Agnes, youngest daughter of Robert Hunter, Esq. of Thurston.—At *Dundee*, William Roberts, Esq. banker, to Margaret, eldest daughter of John Baxter, Esq. of Idvies, Forfarshire.—At *Forfar*, the Rev. John Murray, of Barrymuir, to Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. Adie, of Auchtennie.—At *Lintilghow*,
Mr.

Mr. William Salmond, writer, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Dugald Campbell, Esq. of Ederline.—At *Loch House*, Robert M'Brayne, Esq. to Margaret, daughter of the late John Andrew, Esq. of Linlithgow.—At *Pitliver House*, William Johnstone, Esq. of Sandis, to Mary, daughter of Robert Wellwood, Esq. of Greenock.—At *Nesbit*, Mr. William Stenhouse, of Glasgow, merchant, to Elizabeth, second daughter of George Currie, Esq.

Died. At *Edinburgh*, aged 32, Lieut. John Berry, late of the Royal Navy. He served on board of his Majesty's ship *Revenge*, in the glorious action of the British fleet, commanded by Admiral Lord Nelson, off *Trafalgar*.—Jas. Ogilvie, Esq. late Collector of Excise for Fife.—John Tinning, Esq. W. S.—aged 84, Charles Congalton, M.D.—At *St. Andrew's*, David Walker, Esq. of Fallfield.—At *Glasgow*, Mrs. Lillias Finlay, relict of Robert Blackwell, Esq. of Ramoth.—Mrs. Jean Strathern, wife of Mr. John Connell, merchant.—At *Inverness*, aged 71, Mr. J. Alers, portrait painter.—At *Stirling*, J. Edmond, Esq. late Provost of that burgh.—In the neighbourhood of Kenmuir, in the Barony parish, at the age of 84, Mat. Arbuckle, weaver, a very honest and laborious man, who credibly brought up a large family by the industry of his own hands; but what is remarkable in this man's case is, that he and his wife, a daughter and her husband, grand-daughter and her husband, were all alive till within these few days, so that the whole three generations of fathers and mothers were living at the same time, without a breach on either side.

IRELAND.

Married. At *Dublin*, Hugh Cathcart, Esq. heir of Sir Andrew Cathcart, Bt. to Caroline, eldest daughter of Conway Heatly, Esq. grand niece of John, Duke of Argyle, and cousin to the late Duchess of Richmond.—Capt. Duff, of the 3d regiment of Foot Guards, to Mary, youngest daughter and co-heiress of the late William Finlay, Esq. of Gronetts, in the county of Meath.—John Conroy, Esq. Royal Horse Artillery, to Eliza, only child of Brigadier-General Fisher, commanding Royal Engineer.—Lewis Mansergh, Esq. of the Prerogative-office, to Miss Sarah Harris, of Merrion-row.—Varner Moore, Esq. Barrister at Law, of Mountjoy-square, East, to Mrs. Sharp, of Lower Gardiner-street.—Jeremiah Scully, Esq. of Mount William, county Tipperary, to Miss Alicia Arthur, daughter of Francis Arthur, Esq.—At *Prospect*, Lota, near Cork, John Gallwey Ronan, Esq. M.D. to Miss Burke, daughter of the late Mac-Walter Burke, Esq. of Corroughnabola, in the county of Tipperary.—At *Templemore*, Wm. Blayney Wade, Esq. eldest son of Robert Wade, Esq. Clonebraney, county Meath, to Miss Frances Carden, second daughter of Sir John Craven Carden, Bart. of Templemore, county Tipperary.—At *Newberry*, James Purcell, Esq. of Kilcoleman, to Miss Ellen Williamson, eldest daughter to Usher J. Williamson, Esq. of Dromore, in the county of Cork.—At *Portarlinton*, by the Rev. John Johns, Major Grey, of the 30th regt. to Miss Vignoles.—At *Glynn*, Captain Walker, of 2d regt. Brigadier Major to the forces in Ireland, to Miss Penelope L. Johnston, daughter of the late Adam Johnston, Esq. of Glynn, Antrim.

Died. At *Dublin*, Theobald M'Kenna, Esq. He was a political writer of much celebrity, and enjoyed from Government a pension of 200l. per annum for past services; but the most fortunate circumstance of his life was his union with the beautiful Mrs. M'Dermott, relict of the late Francis M'Dermott, Esq. a Roman Catholic merchant, of the first respectability, and who had left his widow a considerable jointure, and large fortunes to his children, who resided with her. This lady is sister to James Laffan, Esq. of Kilkenny, and aunt to the Countess of Shrewsbury.—Aged 86, Charles Farran, Esq. many years Deputy Clerk of the Pleas in the Court of Exchequer in Ireland.—Major-General Orlando Manley, commander of the Royal Artillery in Ireland.—In *King-street Convent*, Mrs. Ann Fitzgerald, many years a sister of the religious order of St. Clair. She was beloved by the sisterhood, and esteemed by her acquaintance.—At *Johnstown*, Wexford, after a few days illness, Mrs. Fitz-Gerald, relict of the late Stephen Fitz-Gerald, Esq. of the Queen's county, mother to Capt. Gilbert Fitz-Gerald, and to Mrs. John Knox Grogan.

RETROSPECT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

The events of the past month are such as it requires some experience of national humiliation and disappointment to contemplate with tolerable equanimity. They have not only almost put an end to every remaining hope for the independence of Spain, but have given such an additional proof of our inability to afford effectual assistance to a continental ally as must materially impair our political character throughout Europe. The detail, though abundantly distressful, is not long.

The fortress of Rosas was surrendered to the French by capitulation on December 6th.; and the blockade of Barcelona by the Spaniards has since been raised.

Madrid, which for some time appeared reluctantly to bear the yoke, has at length completely submitted to the conqueror. A declaration from Napoleon has, in his usual decisive tone, announced to the Spaniards their future fate. The house of Bourbon has ceased to reign; but he will favour them with his brother Joseph for a king, provided they will give sufficient assurance of their fidelity to him; otherwise Spain must be governed in vice-royalties. He abolishes the feudal prerogatives of the nobles, and the court of inquisition, and means to reduce the number of monks which has hitherto been so exorbitant in that kingdom.

Whilst Napoleon was thus acting the sovereign in the capital, he had his eye upon the English army; which, after General Sir John Moore had made a junction with the corps under Sir David Baird, was advancing against Marshal Soult, who had been detached to make himself master of Leon and Zamora. General Moore approached near enough to Soult for some skirmishing between the cavalry on both sides, in which the English displayed a manifest superiority; and in one of these actions a French General of Division was taken prisoner. The principal object of General Moore in thus advancing is stated to have been to make a diversion of the French forces in order to give time to the Spanish Junta, now removed to Seville, to prepare for resistance in the south of Spain. It proved, however, to be a measure full of hazard; for Napoleon, after sending reinforcements to Soult, marched from Madrid for the purpose of taking the English army in the rear. An immediate retreat was therefore rendered necessary, which was conducted in tolerable order to the borders of Galicia, and thence, in the direction of Lugo, towards Corunna. The French being close on the rear of the retreating army, harrassing it with their sharp shooters mounted on horseback, great losses of baggage, horses, and probably of men, were unavoidably sustained.

General Moore reached Corunna on January 11th, and was soon followed by the enemy, who, commanded by Soult and Junot, posted themselves on the heights near that town. The harbour of Corunna was filled with English transports, supported by a squadron of men of war, for the embarkation. A good deal of skirmishing took place on the 15th; and on the 16th the French in force made a rapid and determined attack upon the right of the British line drawn up to oppose them. The attack extended at length to the whole line;

but

but after three hours hard fighting the enemy was every where completely repulsed. The gallant General Moore early in the action received a cannon shot in the shoulder, which proved fatal; and General Baird soon after was obliged to retire with a wound in the arm, which has rendered amputation necessary. The command then devolved upon Lieutenant General Hope, who, with the officers and soldiers, all appear to have behaved with distinguished valour, and to have worthily supported the honour of the British arms. The loss on our part in the action is supposed to amount to 700 or 800 killed and wounded, among whom are several officers of rank. That of the French is unknown, but was probably greater. But as there could be no doubt that, according to their custom, they would soon repeat the attack, it was thought proper to lose no time in embarking the troops. The greater part were got on board in the course of that night. On the next day the French brought some cannon to bear upon the harbour, which impeded the embarkation of the remainder; but by the great exertions of the naval officers the whole was effected without further loss. Some of the transports ran ashore and were burnt. A division of the army under General Crawford, which has been embarked in safety, proceeded for Vigo. It does not appear that in all these circumstances of difficulty and distress any aid has been afforded by the Spaniards. Probably they will allege in return, that neither have the British troops afforded them any. It is certain that this disastrous expedition must have produced effects very adverse to that mutual confidence which ought to subsist between allies.

The southern provinces of Spain are said to be making great preparations for resistance to the French arms; but of their perseverance and success it is impossible to entertain sanguine expectations. Portugal will probably submit without a struggle at the first appearance of the invaders, and dispositions are made for the evacuation of Lisbon at the approach of danger.

The political state of Germany is considered as so well settled, that the French have quitted Berlin. The king of Prussia, before returning to his unfortunate capital, pays a visit to Petersburg.

Constantinople has been the theatre of another revolution, attended with all the savage fury and turbulence that marks a barbarous government. The Janissaries, whose power was so openly threatened by the reformer Mustapha Bairactar, began on Nov. 14th to collect in numbers about the capital, and made an attack upon the Seimens, or new levies, whom they massacred, after a contest maintained in almost every street. On the 15th they assaulted the Seraglio, the walls of which they scaled. Bairactar, after ordering the deposed Sultan Mustapha IV. to be strangled, either lost his life in the tumult, or, as seems more probable, made his escape with Sultan Mahomet to the Turkish fleet lying at some distance. A conflagration ensued, by which the finest part of the Seraglio was destroyed; and all was confusion and uncertainty when the last messengers departed.

A revolution has likewise taken place in Algiers, in which the reigning Bey was put to death, apparently through the influence of the Turkish party.

The American Congress has rejected by a large majority in both houses a motion for the repeal of the embargo act. As that body, by its constitution,
can

can scarcely fail to speak the sense of the nation, it is to be presumed that there is a general conviction of the policy or necessity of that measure, though local interests render it less popular in some states than in others. It seems not to be doubted that the party now in power will carry the election of a new President.

In Jamaica an unpleasant difference has broken out between the General Assembly and the Governor respecting the late mutiny of the negro corps. The Assembly having required the presence of the Commander of the troops at their bar, to answer for his having prohibited any information of the military proceedings to be given to them, he refused compliance, for which contempt of the legislative body, the Speaker issued a warrant for his apprehension. The Governor, thereupon, prorogued the Assembly, which measure is said to have thrown the island into great confusion.

In the Spanish part of the island of St. Domingo hostilities have taken place between the French and Spaniards, in consequence of which the French commander Ferrand has shot himself, and the French garrison is closely invested in the fortress of St. Domingo.

The meeting of the British Parliament was opened on January 19th, with the King's speech delivered by commission: it was to the following purport—That his Majesty had a perfect confidence of the support of Parliament in a vigorous and persevering prosecution of a war not otherwise to be safely and honourably terminated—that he continued to receive from the Spanish government the strongest assurances of its perseverance in the cause of legitimate monarchy and national independence; and that he has renewed to the Spanish nation in the moment of its difficulties and reverses, his engagements of assistance, which have been reduced to the form of a treaty of alliance, to be laid before the house when the ratifications have been exchanged—that while his Majesty contemplated with satisfaction the achievements of his forces in Portugal, he regrets the termination of the campaign by an armistice and convention, of some articles of which he has been obliged formally to declare his disapprobation. His Majesty then adverts to the aid still due to the king of Sweden, who has concurred with him in rejecting any proposal for negotiation to which the government of Spain is not to be admitted as a party. He congratulates Parliament on the progressive improvement of the public revenue; speaks of the good effects of the Local Militia Act; and recommends that effectual measures be taken for the augmentation of the regular army.

As at the time this speech was composed, Ministry were fully apprized of the retreat and danger of General Moore's army, it is to be concluded that some plan for conducting the war in Spain with better hopes, has been determined upon; and report speaks of a great number of troops being about to be sent to Cadiz and the south of Spain. In the meantime every attempt seems to be made to keep up the spirits of the nation, by parliamentary thanks to the officers who have distinguished themselves in the late actions, and by magnifying the success of repulses into decided victories. Yet it is surely time that all delusion should cease; and that the nation should come to a true estimate of the extent of its powers. It is not to be concealed that a powerful English army, landed on the peninsula after long delay, and with immense expence, has been
driven

driven from it without accomplishing any one valuable purpose, and that in proportion to the diminution of the forces of our allies, has been the augmentation of those of our enemies.

With respect to that part of the speech which conveys a censurè on the armistice and convention in Portugal, it is to be observed, that while the Board of Inquiry was unanimous in declaring that there was no ground for a court martial on any of the persons concerned, the members of it differed in their opinions concerning certain points; and it is understood that his Majesty has particularly expressed his displeasure with some parts of the conduct of Sir Hew Dalrymple.

The recommendation for adopting measures for augmenting the army has been followed by a bill introduced into parliament by Lord Castlereagh, the object of which is, to permit recruiting the regulars to a certain extent from the militia.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

We gave in our last report an account of the Company's cargo brought home by the last East India fleet; and we now insert, agreeably to our promise, a statement of the Private Trade and Privilege Goods; viz.

Per Sir William Pultney, from Bombay, 1154 bales and 63 half bales cotton, 14 casks aloes, and 54 chests of gum animi.

Per Duke of Montrose, from Bengal, 1774 chests indigo, 8 bales raw silk, 15 bags coffee, 380 casks ginger, and 100 chests of star anniseed.

Per Northampton, from Bengal, 261 bales cotton, 433 chests indigo, and 3 chests piece goods.

Per Worcester, from Madras and Bombay, 208 bags coffee, 27 chests indigo, 126 bales cotton wool, 52 bags sera root, 4 cases nutmegs, and 15 bags cocoa.

Per Sarah Christiana, from Bengal, 443 chests indigo, 284 chests gum arabic, 11 bales senna, 19 ditto hides, 80 chests fineal, 117 boxes castor oil and dry ginger, 51 chests sal ammoniac, 60 chests kulsoom flower, and 165 bags coffee.

Per Union, from Bombay, 1611 bales and 20 half bales cotton wool, 4 cases and 2 boxes cornelians, and 79 bales hemp.

Per Walpole, from Bengal, 32 bales raw silk, 1922 boxes and 96 chests indigo, 90 bales cotton, 8 ditto hides, 58 bags pepper, and 855 cwt. white ginger.

The quantity of Madeira, Cape, and other wines, included in the privilege and private trade goods amounts to nearly 70 pipes.

The embargo, which has for so long a time been a favourite object of policy with the Government of the United States, so far from having been set aside by a vote of the legislature, as many in this country were sanguine enough to anticipate, has been confirmed by the American Congress as a wise and necessary measure; and so far from any relaxation taking place with regard to this country, steps are to be taken for rendering it more competent to its intended purpose. Another measure of still greater rigour, that of passing a non-intercourse act, was in contemplation when the last accounts came away. The principle of the non-intercourse restriction is to apply equally to France and Great Britain, and is understood to comprehend both public and private, armed and unarmed vessels. It was supposed by some persons in America, that when this measure shall have been carried into effect, the embargo will be taken off with respect to the few countries which are not immediately within the scope of French and British influence. The immediate consequence of this decision of the American legislature has been an advance, in this country, on the prices of cotton wool, flax seed, and tobacco. Of this latter article a few cargoes have

have within these three weeks, found their way to this country, and, of course, to a favourable market.

A Report from the Directors of the West India Dock Company, on the general conduct of the Company's concerns up to the end of the year 1808, was read before a General Court of Proprietors on the 6th inst. It is upon the whole explicit and satisfactory. The following is a comparative statement of the total number of vessels which are reported to have entered the Docks during the last six years, and the dispatch which was afforded in landing the cargoes.

Year.	No. of Ships.	Finished lading.
1803	363	14th January, 1804.
1804	354	29th December, 1804.
1805	421	22d January, 1806.
1806	477	2d February, 1807.
1807	533	24th December, 1807.
1808	598	593 finished 3d Dec. 1808.

From this statement it would appear, that the Company unloaded within the last year 65 ships more than in the preceding year, and 174 ships more than the average number of the five former years. It further appears from the report, that in the space of five months, from the beginning of July to the latter end of November, that the cargoes of no less than 460 vessels were unloaded. This, it must be admitted, is no inconsiderable degree of dispatch, and tends to lessen the charge which has been made against the Company of their not being sufficiently attentive to the performance of so material a duty, particularly when we bear in mind, that a great deficiency of stowage room must have been occasioned in the warehouses by the accumulation of goods which the long suspension of our commercial intercourse with the continent of Europe has unavoidably occasioned.

The last accounts from the Brazils continue to be of an unfavourable and discouraging nature: the markets are still represented as being overstocked with British merchandize, and the trade as nearly at a stand, in consequence of the heavy duties which were imposed, *ad valorem*, on all articles imported from this country. These duties are calculated by the officers of the customs on an estimated value, and not, as our dealers would have it, according to the prices of invoice. The Government, too, is accused of not having afforded those facilities to commerce which were expected. We cannot, however, upon the mere authority of over sanguine and disappointed speculators, go so far as to arraign the conduct of our old and faithful ally the Prince Regent. We think, however, that in one respect the complaints against the Government are not without foundation; the duties are certainly exorbitant, and afford but an indifferent proof of their skill in the science of political economy; had they been more moderate, they would, in the end, have been more productive.

The present alarming situation of Spain has caused a material advance on the wool of that country. This article now yields the enormous price of from ten to twelve shillings per pound weight, instead of its former price of from seven to eight shillings. The effect of this state of the woollen market has been a very considerable rise in the price of superfine cloths and kerseymeres—the advance on the former being not less than three shillings per yard, and on the latter in proportion.

The whole country of Portugal must, we fear, soon become a prey to the enemy, as large detachments of troops are stated to have already passed the frontiers. Many of the British merchants, who had returned thither in October last, were busily preparing for their departure when the last accounts came away, wisely judging that no effectual resistance is likely to be made against such numerous armies by an ignorant and inactive people. Some of our merchants in Lisbon are said to have been adverse to the idea of an immediate return. We trust, however, they will perceive their danger before their escape becomes impracticable.

The

The total value of imports into Ireland, for the year ending 5th January, 1808, was 6,687,907l. 16s. 7d. The exports for that year were likewise very considerable, amounting in Irish products and manufactures to 5,307,906l. 16s. 4d.—and in foreign and colonial, to 150,370l. 8s. 8d.

The East India Company have declared for sale, on Thursday, the 16th Feb. 1809, prompt the 24th March following, various articles of Bengal piece goods, white and prohibited: coast, white and prohibited piece goods; Surat prohibited goods; a quantity of Nankeen cloth and bandannas. These goods were imported prior to the operation of an Act of the 39th year of his present Majesty, and will have remained in the Company's warehouses more than seven years from the day of sale.

The *Clarinde* frigate sailed from Portsmouth on the 23d, having under her convoy the following East India ships: *Cumberland*, *Scauby Castle*, *Cuffnells*, *Henry Addington*, *True Briton*, and *Neptune*, for Bombay and China; *Warren Hastings*, for Bengal and China; and *Lord Melville*, for Madras and China.

Sugar and coffee continue at steady prices.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

3 per Cent. reduced	- - - - -	65 $\frac{7}{8}$
3 per Cent. Cons.	- - - - -	65 $\frac{7}{8}$
4 per Cent.	- - - - -	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 per Cent. Navy	- - - - -	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{5}{8}$
Bank Long Annuities	- - - - -	18 1-16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imp. 3 per Cent. Ann.	- - - - -	64 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Omnium	- - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
India Bonds	- - - - -	9 10 prem.
Exchequer Bills	- - - - -	9 11 prem.
Consols for Ac.	- - - - -	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

The Average Prices of Navigable Canal Shares, Dock Stock, Fire Office Shares, &c. in JAN. 1809; at the Office of Mr. Scott, 28, New Bridge-street, London.

Grand Junction, 128l. to 130l. ex. dividend of 2l. per share nett for the last half year.—*Neath Canal*, in Glamorganshire, 230l. to 234l. dividing 15l. per share per annum.—*Monmouthshire*, 107l. 10s. dividing 5l. per share per annum.—*Wilts and Berks*, 28l. per share.—*Kennet and Avon*, 4l. premium on 20l. shares.—*Ashby de la Zouch*, 21l.—*West India Dock Stock*, 164l. per cent. ex. dividend of 5l. per cent. nett. for the last half year.—*East India Dock*, 125l. 10s. per cent.—*London Dock*, 117l. per cent. ex. dividend of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. nett. for half year.—*Commercial Road*, 114l. 10s. per cent. ex. dividend of 2l. 10s. for the last half year.—*Globe Insurance*, 111l. to 111 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. ex. dividend of 3l. per share nett for half a year.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR JANUARY.

All the corn upon the ground looks healthy and well, and the lands previously to the frost were in a very favourable state for the agricultural operations to come. The cover of snow will also be very beneficial; but, from the sudden thaw, much damage may be apprehended in all parts exposed to floods; and the uncertainty of the weather is infinitely against sheep and other stock exposed abroad.

Our former accounts of the last crops are generally confirmed, and they were affected by the mildew equally in the North as in the South; barley and oats too suffered considerable loss by shedding seed during harvest, and there were perhaps more perfect self-sown crops during the last autumn than ever before seen. Part of the oats are so light in the fens as scarcely to weigh 20lbs. per bushel.

bushel. Wheat has had a considerable rise of late on the news of a continuance of the embargo in America, the idea fondly entertained of the repeal of which was truly absurd. Still greater breadth of wheat, both in the South and the North, has and will be sown this year; and, should the summer prove favourable, Britain will assuredly need no foreign supply.

Live stock *plentiful and dear*, the criterion of real opulence. All cattle food scarce and dear, straw excepted, which is plentiful and cheap. London markets supplied in profusion, the commodity rather ordinary. The Victualling Office continues killing.

Smithfield. Beef 4s. to 5s. 8d. Mutton, 4s. 4d. to 6s. Veal, 5s. to 7s. Lamb, 15s. to 25s. per quarter. Pork, 6s. to 7s. 6d. Bacon, 6s. 6d. Irish do. 6s. 6d. Fat, 6s. 4d. Skins, 15s. to 30s.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

From the continuance of severe and inclement weather during the course of the preceding month, the progress of the plough as well as that of the dung cart has been unusually retarded; and no beans have as yet any where been sown or drilled. As no out-door work could be done, the flail and threshing-mill were only attended to.

The wheats, rye, and winter tares, have been well secured by snow; but it is much to be feared that the turnip crops will suffer from excess of moisture, which may occasion them to rot in some situations.

Cattle of all sorts have required much fodder; and feeding sheep, ewes with early lambs, have made but little progress, from the inclemency of the season, notwithstanding their large consumption of hay, which has recently advanced considerably in price, consequently the fairs and markets for lean store cattle are very low; good horses and porking pigs being the only stock which are in request, and at advanced prices. Beasts feeding in stalls do well; and the experiments now making in feeding with molasses, or sugar mixed with ground corn and chaff, are expected fully to answer.

PRICE OF GRAIN:

ENGLAND AND WALES.		SCOTLAND.	
	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat - - - -	39 10	- - - -	31 10
Rye - - - -	59 4	- - - -	52 1
Barley - - - -	44 7	- - - -	38 0
Oats - - - -	32 10	- - - -	29 1
Beans - - - -	65 0	- - - -	53 3
Pease - - - -	66 5	- - - -	55 11
Oatmeal - - - -	49 9	- - - -	25 6
Bigg - - - -	—	- - - -	33 11

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A reply to the letter of Mr. T. Rees has been transmitted by the Synonymist, which fully convinces us, that in the paragraph objected to he was seriously proposing an opinion which he was well prepared to defend. As, however, that defence would have involved a theological controversy, for which we do not consider the Athenæum to be the proper theatre, we have begged leave to decline inserting it.

Some remarks having already appeared in the Athenæum relative to the sentiments of Philogamus concerning polygamy, we do not think it necessary further to pursue the subject.